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Wednesday, March 16, 2011

INSIDE TODAY

SPORTS NEWS

BAKER-ED ALASKA



John Baker and his lead dogs Velvet and Snickers pose at the finish line after winning the the 2011 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race on Tuesday, March 15, 2011 in Nome, Alaska. Baker, 48, of Kotzebue, Alaska, is the first Alaska Native musher to win the world's longest sled dog race since Jerry Riley did it in 1976.

See Aruba Today Sports

WORLD

Germany 1st to shut nuke plants

JAMES KANTER

© 2011 New York Times

BRUSSELS – Germany on Tuesday became the first European country to shut nuclear plants in the wake of the crisis in Japan as the EU made plans to test all 143 nuclear power plants in its 27 countries. Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany said seven plants that went online before 1980 would be temporarily closed and the time would be used to study speedier adoption of renewable energy. All of the plants were built by German contractors.

Continued on A/2

ISOLATED



This three-picture combo shows, from top to bottom, Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, left, shaking hands with Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega in Tripoli, Libya on June 5, 2007; Gadhafi, left, greeting Cuba's President Fidel Castro in Tripoli, Libya on May 17, 2001; and Gadhafi, left, accompanied by Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez, waving in Porlamar, Margarita Island, Venezuela on Sept. 28, 2009. Even though after an internal conflict started in Libya in February 2011, Gadhafi is finding himself increasingly alone internationally, he still has at least a few friends far away. Chavez, Castro and Ortega have been foremost in opposing U.S. and NATO military involvement, and in suggesting that reports of atrocities by Gadhafi's troops are overblown or unproven.

Associated Press

Japan tries to cool nuke plant



The National Police Agency said Tuesday afternoon that 2,722 people had died, and many thousands were still missing. Bodies continued to wash ashore at various spots along the coast after having been pulled out to sea by the tsunami's retreat.

By HIROKO TABUCHI

© 2011 New York Times

TOKYO – The company that runs the troubled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in northeastern Japan announced Wednesday that a fire was burning there, just hours after officials said flames that erupted Tuesday had been doused. Continued on A/2

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Continued from Front Page

While Merkel asserted that safety was her main concern, opposition politicians accused her of pandering to fear about nuclear power ahead of a regional election this month. She has, in effect, suspended a decision last autumn to keep older plants operating beyond their previously designated life span.

The tests across the EU are intended to ensure preparedness for emergencies like floods and tsunamis, as well as terrorist attacks, the European energy commissioner, Guenther Oettinger, said after meeting with representatives of the nuclear industry, electricity companies and governments.

"This is a reassessment, if you like, of all potential risks in the wake of what has happened in Japan," Oettinger said.

The Japanese disaster has led officials in Europe and the United States to think twice about nuclear expansion. But for now, developing countries, while acknowledging the need for safety, say their energy needs give them little choice but to continue investing in nuclear power.

A crucial element, Oettinger said, would be to determine whether the plants had enough backup power to cool the reactors if electricity was lost. The loss of backup power after the earthquake and tsunami in Japan led to overheating and explosions at the Fukushima plant. □

Gadhafi finds supporters in Castro, Chavez

By IAN JAMES

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela — As Moammar Gadhafi finds himself increasingly isolated internationally, he still has at least a few friends far away. Latin America's most prominent leftists rallied early to his defense and have stayed there even as former friends, neighbors and countrymen have abandoned the embattled Libyan leader and urged his ouster.

Venezuela's Hugo Chavez, Cuba's Fidel Castro and Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega have been foremost in opposing U.S. and NATO military involvement, and in suggesting that reports of atrocities by Gadhafi's troops are overblown or unproven.

"What is the United States proposing? A war, an invasion of Libya. They want Libyan oil," Chavez said Sunday. He praised the African Union for appointing a commission of leaders to travel to Libya for talks an effort in line with his own peace proposals.

Chavez's calls for mediation reflect both his affinity for Gadhafi and his ambition to be a global player, rallying nations against the United States.

But his critics say Chavez has no credibility to promote mediation because he has ignored abuses by Gadhafi's regime. And his stance is also uncomfortable for some of his allies and political supporters,

who side with the uprising and say it's time for Gadhafi to go.

Latin America's staunchest leftists long ago embraced Gadhafi as a fellow fighter against global U.S. influence, and they instinctively reject any U.S. intervention almost anywhere.

Both Castro and Chavez have repeatedly suggested the U.S. is stirring up trouble in Libya to grab its oil and say Libyans should settle their own internal conflict.

That stance has put them at odds with some of their friends. The left-leaning governments of Argentina and Brazil have condemned Gadhafi's crackdown on opponents. And even some followers of Castro and Chavez have been recoiling from their positions.

Comments posted on Cuban government websites and some articles on the pro-Chavez website aporrea.org have objected to backing for Libya's eccentric strongman. One article on aporrea.org titled "Neither Gadhafi nor



Libya's President Moammar Gadhafi, left, and Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez wave upon their arrival to the old port in Porlamar, on Margarita Island, Venezuela in a file photo dated Sept. 28, 2009.

(AP / Fernando Llano)

imperialism!" argued that Chavez's government should "support the revolutionary masses of Libya" that have risen up to topple the "capitalist dictator."

A group of Venezuelan Marxists led by writer Domingo Alberto Rangel and lawyer Jose Ramon Velasquez issued a statement last week condemning Gadhafi's "brutal repression" of the civilian population. The government, meanwhile, released a statement backed by more than

260 artists and intellectuals in Venezuela and elsewhere opposing foreign military intervention and supporting Chavez's mediation proposal. Adam Isacson, an analyst at the Washington Office on Latin America, said Chavez's approach and "his evident lack of concern about Gadhafi's abuses owe to a combination of misplaced south-south solidarity and a desire to take a position contrary to the United States' almost for its own sake." □

Japan

Continued from Front Page

Soon after that announcement, a government official at Japan's nuclear watchdog agency said flames and smoke were no longer visible, but he cautioned that it was unclear if the fire had died out. The official, Minoru Ogoda, said it was also unclear if this was a new fire or if the fire Tuesday had never really gone out.

It is too dangerous for workers to get near the reactor, No. 4, to determine exactly what is happening. The reports are a troubling reminder of the difficulties the company is having bringing the plant, which has suffered multiple explosions since Saturday, under control. The situation became especially dire on Tuesday, when releases of radiation led the company to pull most of its workers from the plant. The authorities are

especially concerned about pools for spent fuel rods at several reactors at the plant, including No. 4, where the pond has lost some of the water needed to keep the fuel rods stable. The rods are still radioactive and potentially as hot and dangerous as the fuel rods inside the reactors.

Ogoda said a proposed plan to use helicopters to put more cold water into the pool was looking unlikely.

He said the Tokyo Electric Power Co., which runs the plant, would probably try to spray water into the reactor building through a gaping hole in the wall blasted open by an earlier explosion.

The hole or holes in the roof caused by that blast did not appear big enough to allow sufficient amounts of water in, he said.

That explosion on Tuesday was caused by hydrogen gas bubbling up from chemical reactions set off by the fuel rods in the pool, Japanese officials said. Inspectors from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory

Commission said they had been told that what was burning was lubricating oil from machinery near the pool. Concern remained high about the storage pools at that reactor and at two other reactors, Nos. 5 and 6. None of those three reactors at the plant, 140 miles northeast of Tokyo, were operating on Friday afternoon when an offshore earthquake with a magnitude now estimated at 9.0 shook the site. A tsunami rolled into the northeast Japanese coastline minutes later, swamping the plant.

At least 750 workers were evacuated on Tuesday morning after a separate explosion ruptured the inner containment building at Reactor No. 2 at the Daiichi plant, which was crippled by Friday's earthquake and tsunami. The closely spaced but apparently coincidental explosions at Reactors Nos. 2 and 4 together released a surge of radiation 800 times the recommended hourly exposure limit in Japan. □

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Big California quakes could devastate state

By Peter Henderson

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO – California will experience unthinkable damage when the next powerful quake strikes, probably within 30 years, even though the state prides itself on being on the leading edge of earthquake science. Modern skyscrapers built to the state's now-rigorous building codes might ride out the big jolt that experts say is all but inevitable, but the surviving buildings will tower over a carpet of rubble from older structures that have collapsed.

Hot desert winds could fan fires that quakes inevitably cause, overwhelming fire departments, even as ancient water pipelines burst, engineers and architects say.

Part of the lesson from the disaster that hit Japan on Friday is that no amount of preparation can fully protect a region such as California that sits on top of fault lines. Even so, critics fear the state may have long skimped on retrofitting older buildings. Yet the cost of cleaning up after a big quake is likely to be much higher than the cost of even the most expensive prevention, they warn. "Everybody is playing a gamble that something like this won't happen," said Dana Buntrock, associate professor of architecture, at the University of California, Berkeley.

Buntrock, like many others, sees California's past as a present danger. □

Yale killing suspect plans to plead guilty



Raymond Clark III

NEW HAVEN, Conn. – An attorney for an animal research technician charged with killing a Yale University graduate student days before her wedding says his client plans to plead guilty Thursday.

Public defender Joseph Lopez said Raymond Clark III, who was charged with strangling 24-year-old Annie Le of Placerville, Calif., would plead guilty Thursday in New

Haven Superior Court. Lopez would not specify the charges, but said it was part of a plea deal.

"We anticipate a change of plea on Thursday," Lopez said Tuesday. "This appears to be in the best interests of our client."

Telephone messages were left Tuesday for a prosecutor. Le's body was found stuffed behind a research lab wall on the day she was supposed to get married in September 2009.

The 26-year-old Clark, who has been in prison on \$3 million bail, has pleaded not guilty to murder and felony murder. Murder and felony murder each carry a sentence of 25 to 60 years in prison. □

In New York

Governor seeks "unfettered power"



New York state Attorney General Andrew Cuomo

NEW YORK – New York Governor Andrew Cuomo's budget plan gives some of his commissioners "unfettered power" to cut the Medicaid program and close upstate prisons, the state comptroller said in a report on Tuesday. But the legislature may balk at enacting these bills as it is "the very entity that would be relinquishing significant policy-making," Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli's report said.

The comptroller, in his analysis of Cuomo's budget plan and amendments, identified other hitches, from "undefined" savings to a possible revenue shortfall of \$433 million in the current budget that ends on March 31.

However, the freshman governor might have an ace in the hole when it comes to persuading the legislature to grant his commissioners unusually broad powers.

If Cuomo and the legislature do not agree on a \$132.9 billion budget by the April 1 deadline, he could follow the pioneering strategy employed by his predecessor.

Former Governor David Paterson inserted most of his budget plan into temporary spending bills needed to keep the government open.

This forced lawmakers to choose between enacting his plan or shutting the govern-

ment down; they opted for the former.

Explaining the governor's powers in this area, DiNapoli said: "The legislature would be unable to delete or revise the language in the emergency spending bills unless the deletions or revisions were agreed to by the Executive."

The Democratic-controlled Assembly and the Republican-led Senate have issued their own budget plans, which mainly try to restore some of Cuomo's deep cuts to education and Medicaid, the state-federal health plan for the impoverished, elderly and disabled. □

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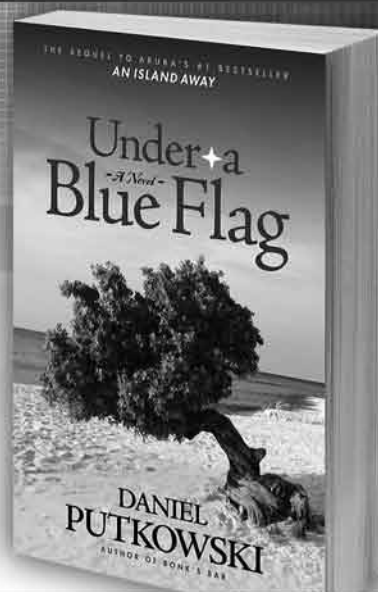


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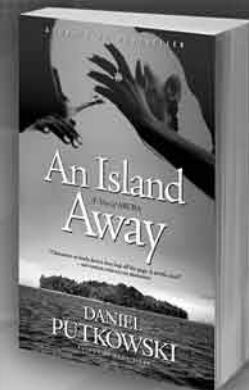
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In New York

Killing spree suspect in court

NEW YORK — A man accused of killing four people and wounding four others in a 28-hour rampage told police he had cancer, lamented his family life, said he wished police had shot him and declared he had experienced "a doozy of a day," authorities said in a court document released Tuesday.

As Maksim Gelman appeared for a court date via video link from a hospital, Manhattan prosecutors filed an account



Suspect Maksim Gelman

of his remarks to officers after his Feb. 12 arrest. Meanwhile, a lawyer entered Gelman's not-guilty plea for him in a

subway stabbing. Authorities say Gelman's sudden kitchen-knife attack on a subway rider marked the end of a spree that stretched from Brooklyn to Manhattan and included killing a relative and acquaintances, running over a pedestrian, carjacking and other violence. □

Michigan set to allow voiding Unions contracts go null

DETROIT — The Michigan House gave final approval on Tuesday to granting state-appointed emergency managers broad powers to break labor deals with failing schools and cities, and the plan is expected to be signed into law. New Republican Governor Rick Snyder, who is expected to sign the draft law soon, asked for the plan to extend the powers of emergency managers appointed to save failing programs. Detroit Public Schools, the state's largest district, has been under emergency management for two years. House members voted 62-48 to approve an amended version of the bill. Senators

passed last week. Several Democratic attempts to change the bill were rejected before the final vote. Last week, hundreds of pro-union demonstrators had jammed the Capitol in Lansing from the rotunda to the floors above to protest the plan in a scene similar to the weeks of opposition raised by workers at the Wisconsin Capitol in Madison. The Michigan bill allows a governor-appointed emergency manager to modify or end collective bargaining agreements. With the governor's approval, the emergency manager also could dissolve a city government or recommend consolidation. □

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Ex-nurse guilty of aiding suicides

FARIBAULT, Minn. – A former nurse accused of seeking out depressed people online and encouraging two to kill themselves was found guilty Tuesday of aiding the suicides of an English man and Canadian woman.

William Melchert-Dinkel, 48, was charged in April with two counts of aiding suicide for allegedly advising and encouraging two people to take their own lives. Mark Drybrough, 32, of Coventry, England, hanged himself in 2005, and 18-year-old Nadia Kajouji of Brampton, Ontario, jumped into a frozen river in 2008. Melchert-Dinkel declined a jury trial and left his fate to a judge, who issued his verdict Tuesday.

Rice County District Judge



William Melchert-Dinkel

Thomas Neuville rejected Melchert-Dinkel's argument that his actions amounted to free speech. Melchert-Dinkel was not merely advocating ideas about suicide, Neuville said, but engaging in "lethal advocacy."

Prosecutors said Melchert-Dinkel, of Faribault, Minn., was obsessed with suicide and hanging and sought out potential victims on the Internet. When he found them, prosecutors said, he posed as

a female nurse, feigned compassion and offered step-by-step instructions on how they could kill themselves.

Rice County Attorney Paul Beaumaster said Melchert-Dinkel told police he did it for the "thrill of the chase." Prosecutors said he acknowledged participating in online chats about suicide with up to 20 people and entering into fake suicide pacts with about 10 people, five of whom he believed killed themselves.

"I think justice was served," Beaumaster said after learning of the verdict. "I think it was a just verdict based on the facts of the case, and convictions were earned on both counts." □

In California

US student called out for awful Japan rant

LOS ANGELES – A US student has received threats after a video of her ranting against Asians, including Japanese calling home about the quake disaster, went viral online, a spokesman said Tuesday.

In the YouTube clip, the undergraduate, in her third year studying political science, lashed out at the "hordes of Asian people" at the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA).

Speaking in a fake Asian language at one point h. Ching chong ling long ting tong" she chastised them notably for talking on their cellphones in the library.

"In America, we do not talk on our cell phones in the library," she said in the three-minute clip, adding: "If you're gonna come to UCLA, then use American manners."

She continued: "I swear they're going through their whole families, just checking on everybody from the tsunami thing. I mean, I know, that sounds horrible. I feel sorry for all the people affected by the tsunami." □

Nevada's boom ends in record of empty homes

By CRISTINA SILVA
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS – The promise of palm tree groves and low-priced real estate lured Alan and Katherine Ackerly across the Rocky Mountains from Denver to Nevada in 2004, where thousands of new houses beckoned brightly as any neon sign.

They came to buy their retirement home. But the real estate bust took its toll, with a flood of short sales and foreclosures in the market, and last month the Ackerly's dream home was foreclosed on, too.

"I pretty much gave it back to them," said Alan Ackerly, a 57-year-old electrician who stopped paying his mortgage because he owed more than the house was worth.

The Ackerly's home is now among a swelling number of abandoned houses in Nevada. There were 167,564 empty



Contractor Alan Ackerly

houses in the state last year, according to newly released U.S. Census data, more than double the number in 2000. The number of vacant homes represents about one out of every seven houses across Nevada.

The figures are another striking example of how the housing crisis has pummeled Nevada, casting a new light on the severely weakened market after years of boom.

One result is an increase in code violations. □

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Tight budgets may spell Death of death penalty possible in many states

By Barbara Goldberg
Associated Press

NEW YORK – A perfect storm of cash-strapped budgets, newly elected governors and an increased use of DNA evidence threatens to smite the death penalty in an increasing number of states.

The death penalty got the ax in Illinois last week and stands a good chance of being eliminated this year in Connecticut, Maryland and Montana, where bills are wending their way through statehouses, said Richard Dieter, executive director for the Death Penalty Information Center.

Repeal efforts also are underway in Florida and Kansas, with another expected this week in Ohio, although their success is less likely, Dieter said.

“Innocence is the biggest issue, but what’s getting these bills heard is the cost of the death penalty,” Dieter said.

Studies show the basic cost of carrying out the death sentence is more than double that of a life sentence.

Lawmakers promoting the death-penalty repeal measure in Ohio say they hope to sell it as a way to help close the state’s \$8 billion budget deficit. □

In New Jersey

Police examine turnpike bus crash

EAST BRUNSWICK, N.J. – Police on Tuesday were examining the wreckage of a bus to try to figure out why it crashed as it traveled from New York City’s Chinatown to Philadelphia, killing the driver and a passenger and injuring several others.

The one-vehicle crash Monday night on the New Jersey Turnpike one of the nation’s most heavily trafficked highways happened just days after a bus from a Connecticut casino crashed as it was returning to New York City’s Chinatown neighborhood, killing 15 people.

In Monday’s accident, driver Wei Wang, a 50-year-old Taiwanese national who lived in Forest Hills, N.Y., was thrown through the windshield, and several passengers were badly injured, state police Sgt. Stephen Jones said.

Passenger Troy Nguyen, 20,



Luxury bus is towed at its crash site

of Royersford, Pa., died after being transported to a hospital in New Brunswick. Police said Nguyen had been partially ejected from a driver’s side window.

Forty-one other passengers were sent to hospitals. Louis Pierre, 50, of Philadelphia and 70-year-old David Choi, of Lansdale, Pa., were in critical condition, Jones said. They are believed to have been sitting in the rear of the bus, police said. State police weren’t sure how many other passen-

gers remained hospitalized as of Tuesday afternoon.

Preliminary evidence suggests the bus, operated by a Pennsylvania company, was traveling south on the turnpike at around 9 p.m.

Monday when the crash occurred just south of Exit 9 in East Brunswick, about 40 miles southwest of Manhattan.

The vehicle went off the road onto the grassy median before striking a concrete overpass support, Jones said. □

In New York

Police to buy bullet proof boat

NEW YORK – The New York Police Department plans to buy a bullet-proof boat to respond quickly to threats at the city’s ports and waterways, Police Commissioner Ray Kelly said on Tuesday.

The police will buy the hi-tech boat with a \$5.2 million grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Kelly said in testimony to the City Council.

“This will provide for the purchase of a high-speed, ballistic-protected vessel to respond to a suicide or live shooter attack in a port area,” Kelly said.

The FEMA money will also provide for training officers who would be assigned to responding to such threats, he



Bullet proof boat

said. Kelly said the police department has a budget of \$4.45 billion for the coming fiscal year, compared with \$4.88 million this year.

Overall, he also said crime went down 2 percent in 2010, especially burglaries, grand larcenies and auto

theft. Homicides and rapes increased, he said.

“Viewed in context these crimes are still low by historical standards,” he said. “Last year’s total of 536 murders was the fourth lowest the city has recorded since reliable data was kept on this crime in 1963.” □

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The Barracudas Bingo at the Marriott

Synchronized swimmers organize fun bingo

Fundraiser to cover travel for top swimmers representing Aruba



PALM BEACH – On Saturday, April 2nd 2011 a fun bingo event will be organized from 2:00PM-5:00 PM in the Grand Ballroom of the Aruba Marriott Resort (hotel). There are many cash prizes to be won ranging from 75 to 750 florins, along with some very exciting door prizes.

All proceeds for this bingo will be used to cover the travel expenses of the Barracuda Synchronized Swimming Club of Aruba's top swimming performers, who will represent Aruba abroad. The Barracuda girls that perform in the synchronized swimming selection train very hard, around some 15-20 hours per week to put in the best scores for Aruba.

Upcoming performances include synchronized swimming

contests in Canada, Puerto Rico and Peru. The sports club does not have sufficient funds and therefore organizes this bingo at The Aruba Marriott Resort as a fundraiser. Everybody is welcome to join and great prizes can be won! The Barracudas Synchronized Swimming Club was founded in 1975 and houses multiple top performing teams in synchronized swimming, consisting of girls (only) ranging in age from 6 to 18. With the Barracudas being the only synchronized swimming club in Aruba, they are well known throughout the Caribbean as one of the strongest performers in the region!

If you would like to be part of this winning team and become a synchronized swimmer at the Barracudas Swimming

Club you are most welcome to join. You must be in the possession of swimming diploma C, and if you like music, swimming, stretching and exercise, this might be just the sport for you! For more information, please contact the Barracudas Synchronized Swimming Club, Louella Brezovar, tel 587-3527. □



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It's all-u-can-eat ribs at Tango



Fabulous rib night on Wednesday

PALM BEACH - Succulent BBQ loin ribs, as many as you can eat, are on the menu this Wednesday, March 16th at Tango Restaurant. Grilled to perfection and served with a secret-recipe BBQ sauce, dinner has never been so good. A baked potato, pan-fried potatoes, French fries or rice

comes with the ribs, as well as vegetables and corn on the cob. The BBQ loin ribs are back because of popular demand, but of course guests can also opt to choose from the menu of the Argentine-style restaurant. Tango Restaurant is located in the Arawak Gardens

across from the Occidental Resort on the high rise strip; it is without any doubt considered one of the best meat restaurants on the island. Its kitchen is open from 5 – 11 pm. So cross Wednesdays off on your diaries as 'taken' and go to Tango for ribs. Enjoy! □

Special St. Patricks & Flag Day Green Beer & Aruban Cuisine



PALM BEACH, ARUBA This Thursday and Friday March 17 and 18, 2011 are special holidays celebrated in Aruba and Champions is no exception. For Thursday March 17th St. Patrick's Day, Champions serves Balashi special Green Beer and the special Aruban Green Dublin cocktail. For lunch and dinner Champions offers a special Irish "corned beef sandwich" served with French fries and cole slaw. Friday March 18th is the national celebration of Aruba's Flag Day. To honor the Aruban cuisine, Champions invites you for a traditional Aruban "creole" meal. You can taste a delicious fish dish with Aruban Creole sauce complemented with "funchi" and fried plantains for only 18 florins. To toast to Aruba's Flag Day, take a sip the special "Aruban Flag" cocktail. Champions Sports Bar & Restaurant looks forward to see you on Thursday and Friday to celebrate these festive days. □

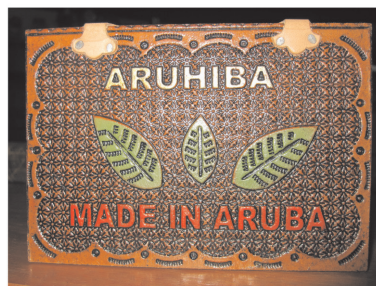
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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced

cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba



he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba". Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five

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Fasting, Religious Wisdom

Religious dietary recommendations, sometimes prohibitions, like folk sayings and remedies have an uncanny insight into the human condition. As a clinical nutritionist, I enjoy trying to unravel the basis for these laws. Likewise, I am interested in traditional methods of cooking foods. Why do spinach and potatoes or cloves and ham seem to go so naturally together? Spinach, a great natural source of iron, contains oxalic acid which can raise uric acid and aggravate a gout attack. However, cooked and eaten with potatoes, the alkalizing quality of potatoes reduces inflammation and prevents a uric acid reaction. Meanwhile, everyone knows that pork has to be cooked well because these animals may more easily become infected with bacteria and parasites. Cloves, used traditional pork recipes, have natural oils that kill bacteria and parasites. Interestingly, reflecting the dietary prohibitions of the Old Testament, medically, we have found pork to be detrimental to all metabolic blood types.

Spring reminds me that every major world religion and many indigenous belief systems incorporate fasting at this time. "Fasting" means abstaining from food or some types of food. The idea of the fasting in spring has been fixed firmly in all religious disciplines as a mechanism to purify oneself and become

more receptive to their deity's message. The Christian Bible has thirty three passages about fasting during what they call the Lenten season. Pope John Paul II stated that Penitential fasting is therapy for the soul. In fact, for Catholics all days of Lent are supposed to be fasting days. Muslims throughout the world will be fasting during the sacred month of Ramadan. The Jewish fast of the firstborn takes place in the spring, during Passover.

As a natural physician I am aware that beyond religious faith, fasting is an ancient healing strategy. Many traditional cultures, including Oriental, East Indian, and Native American, have long regarded short periods of abstaining from food as curative and revitalizing. Hippocrates prescribed fasting. Fasting was practiced by Plato, Socrates and Mahatma Gandhi. In modern Europe, clinics that support therapeutic fasting are quite common. In Sweden it's practically a national sport.

Proponents of fasting offer thousands of testimonials from recovered asthmatics, arthritics, insomniacs, ex-sufferers of migraines, skin, digestive disorders, and other ailments. They maintain that with the exception of serious conditions like tuberculosis, ulcers, diabetes, hypoglycemia, blood, liver, kidney and heart diseases- systematic voluntary abstention from eating is almost always a healthy first

response to illness. One of my medical heroes whose influence prompted me to become a colon hydrotherapist, Dr. Bernard Jensen, has supervised over 50,000 fasts at his center in Escondido, CA.

There are two kinds of fasting. The "water fast" induces rapid internal purification, but shocks the system. Dr. Rudolph Ballentine, MD., author of "Diet & Nutrition - A Holistic Approach," says that the average American lacks the proper reserve nutrients necessary for healthy water fast.

Dr. Ballentine recommends a supervised, gradual "juice fast" using natural vegetable and fruit juices to provide essential vitamins to sustain metabolism, and minerals which neutralize and removed toxins that are released.

Although abstaining from food is often not as difficult as you may imagine, it is useful to plan ahead. Having medical supervision is the safest way to start your fast. Fasting is not recommended at times of high stress. During the first two days, when you may feel weak and out of sorts, it's nice to be able to be with supportive loved ones, and to rest when you feel like it. Acupuncture works very well to support you through this "rough" period.

One should begin to reduce portion amounts and eat lighter foods several days before all solid food is elimi-

nated. While fasting, be sure to drink enough water to internally wash the system. Enough is: 1 qt/ 90 lbs of body weight (1 lt./each 30kg). Colonic irrigation not only augments the cleansing process, it also helps to hydrate the body.

At Viana Healing Center we routinely supervise patients through a fast where, besides water, only brown rice is eaten for two weeks. Eating no proteins or fats, your body will begin to quickly break down its own excess deposits. This not only helps with weight loss, but we've seen it drastically improve skin, allergies, colon and other problems. The duration of a fast depends on one's medical condition, body weight, lifestyle and other individual factors. In many of our supervised patients, we combine the brown rice fast with periods of taking light, natural foods, almost exclusively vegetables. If you are one of the people on the list above, not healthy enough to completely fast, but would like to eliminate or reduce certain food for religious or health reasons, be sure to be checked by a professional. Consult with a clinical nutritionist to help you make the right food choices in the safest way. Sometimes, eliminating red meat, dairy and/or gluten containing products like wheat, can drastically improve your health. Adding dietary supplements might be recommended. Always read labels



By: Dr. Carlos Viana

to make sure your vitamins are free from artificial or unwanted ingredients like sugar and starch fillers.

Get the Point! As a student of ecclesiastical discipline I see that the religious obligation of fasting is rarely observed in its integrity nowadays. What a pity, fasting brings into harmony our mind, soul and body. Fasting and abstaining from excessive food results in the lightening of the capabilities of the mind and the soul. Come in so we can help you plan and safely supervise your spring (cleaning) fast.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a US Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist specializing in Age Management, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, St Cruz TEL: 585-1270 Web Site: www.vianaheal.com

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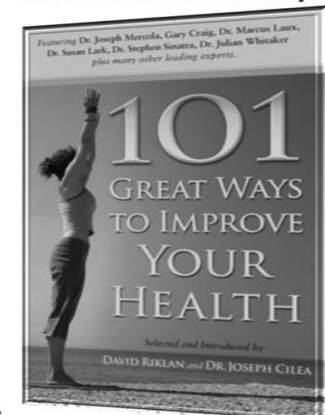


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In Australia Teen cancels Facebook Bday party

SYDNEY – An Australian schoolgirl had to cancel her 16th birthday party after her Facebook invitation went viral and close to 200,000 people said they would turn up at her house, reports said Tuesday.

The Sydney girl had wanted her schoolmates to attend, and the post which included her address said they could bring friends if they let her know, Sydney's Daily Telegraph newspaper reported.

"(It's an) open house party as long as it doesn't get out of hand," she wrote, adding that she had not had time to invite everyone individually.

But within 24 hours more than 20,000 people had replied to the public event to say they were attending. □

Bahrain declares martial law, violence flares

By Lin Noueihed
Associated Press

MANAMA – Bahrain's king declared martial law on Tuesday as his government struggled to quell an uprising by the island's Shi'ite Muslim majority that has drawn in troops from fellow Sunni-ruled neighbor Saudi Arabia. The three-month state of emergency will hand wholesale power to Bahrain's security forces, which are dominated by the Sunni Muslim elite, stoking sectarian tensions in one of the Gulf's most politically volatile nations. Disturbances shook the kingdom through the day. A hospital source said two men, one Bahraini and the other Bangladeshi, were killed in clashes in the Shi'ite area of Sitra and more than 200 people were wounded in various incidents.

State television said a Bahraini policeman was also



Saudi Arabian troops gesture

killed, denying media reports that a Saudi soldier had been shot dead.

The United States, a close ally of both Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, said it was concerned about reports of growing sectarianism in the country, home to the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet. It dispatched Assistant Secretary of State Jeff Feltman to Bahrain to push for dialogue to resolve the crisis.

"One thing is clear, there is no military solution to the problems in Bahrain," said White

House spokesman Tommy Vietor.

It was not clear if a curfew would be imposed or whether there would be any clamp-down on media or public gatherings.

"In order for the situation to return to normal we have to establish order and security and stop the violations which have spread disturbances among the people of our dear country," said Interior Minister Sheikh Rashed al-Khalifa. Bahraini state media have

said Shi'ite opposition activists, who complain the state has been naturalizing Sunni foreigners to tip the sectarian balance, are targeting foreigners.

The opposition says the security forces are full of naturalized foreigners willing to use force against protesters.

On Monday, more than 1,000 Saudi troops rolled into the kingdom at the request of Bahrain's Sunni rulers, flashing victory signs as they crossed. The United Arab Emirates and Qatar have said they would also send police. Thousands of Bahrainis marched on the Saudi embassy in Manama on Tuesday to protest against the intervention. "People are angry, we want this occupation to end. We don't want anybody to help the al-Khalifa or us," said a protester who gave his name as Salman, referring to the ruling family. □

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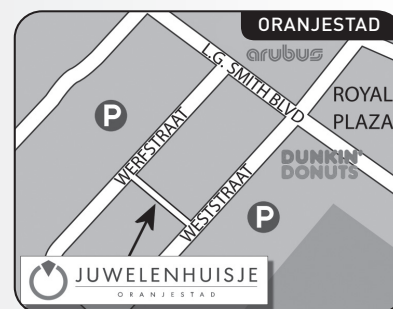
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G8 ministers turn to U.N. on Libya violence

By JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press

PARIS — Top diplomats from some of the world's biggest powers deferred Tuesday to the U.N. Security Council to take action against Libya, as France and Britain failed to win support for a no-fly zone to halt the advance of Moammar Gadhafi's forces.

The envoys from the Group of Eight prominent economies insisted Gadhafi must

leave power. France said they agreed that a new U.N. resolution should be adopted by week's end with measures to help Libyan rebels, who have sought a no-fly zone imposed by foreign powers.

A final communique after a two-day meeting in Paris of G-8 foreign ministers warned of "dire consequences" if Gadhafi did not honor the Libyan people's claim to basic rights, freedom of expression, and

representative government.

The halting efforts to raise pressure against Gadhafi's 42-year regime came as his forces used tanks, warships and artillery Tuesday to gain ground near the rebels' base in eastern Libya.

The G-8 ministers agreed that more action within the U.N. Security Council is needed to pressure Gadhafi to leave, possibly with new sanctions, but not military action, diplo-



France's Foreign Minister Alain Juppe

mats said.

"The G-8 agreed that we hope the U.N. Security Council should adopt as soon as possible that is to say by the end of this week a measure that allows us to help the opposition based in Benghazi," French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said, without elaborating. Meanwhile, at U.N. headquarters, diplomats said experts from Britain, France, Lebanon, the United States and Germany were meeting to finalize the text of a draft resolution. The draft was ex-

pected to be circulated to the 15-member Security Council later Tuesday, the diplomats said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the talks have been private.

One diplomat said the resolution will be in two parts, with Lebanon, the council's only Arab member, proposing part one, which would establish a no-fly zone over Libya, and Britain and the United States proposing a second part on other measures to strengthen sanctions approved by the Security Council on Feb. 26. □

Mighty pirate roundup

Pirates jailed in 17 nations



Captured pirates sit Indian naval ship

By KATHARINE HOU

Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — Five Somali pirates are jailed for life by a U.S. court. Sixty-one suspected pirates captured at sea face trial in India.

Somali prisons are running out of room.

Pirates captured at sea by international navies used to be routinely set free because no country wanted the hassle and expense of a court case. But as piracy has flourished and turned increasingly violent, an unprecedented 17 countries are prosecuting pirates in courts around the world.

The increase in arrests and prosecutions shows a growing recognition of the global problem piracy has become, said Alan Cole, the head of the U.N.'s anti-piracy program. In recent months, six hostages have been killed including four Americans on a hijacked yacht and pirates have begun using explosives and blow torches to cut crews out of the secure rooms they sometimes retreat to during attacks.

"Piracy is becoming quite a high-risk enterprise," said Cole. "We see pirates in prison in Kenya, the Seychelles and Maldives. They are amazed

to come in and see their cousins, brothers and friends in there. They thought they had all made it and gone to open shops in Europe. The recruiters are lying to them." Seventeen nations have put more than 850 pirates on trial in the past year and a half, Cole said, including five Somali pirates given life sentences in a U.S. court on Monday. □

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In Abidjan

Shooting at roadblock kills 4



Man points to burnt shop

By Ange Aboa
Associated Press

ABIDJAN — Gunmen shot dead four people on Tuesday near a roadblock run by youth supporters of Ivory Coast's Laurent Gbagbo in the Abidjan suburb of Deux Plateau, several witnesses said. The world's leading cocoa-producing country has been in violent turmoil since a disputed presidential election pitting incumbent leader Gbagbo against rival Alassane Ouattara. U.N.-certified results showed Ouattara won, but Gbagbo has refused to concede.

"I'm not sure what happened but we heard a burst of shooting near the youth roadblock just behind the Sococe supermarket," said Marco Abade, a resident of the leafy, middle-class neighborhood. "We heard screaming and there were four bodies of youths on the road," Abade added, saying he did not know if the dead were members of a pro-Gbagbo youth militia, who have set up roadblocks all over town, many armed with automatic weapons. Another witness said one of the dead was initially badly wounded and was rushed to a

local clinic where he died. Battles between gunmen backing Gbagbo and Ouattara have raged in Abidjan's Abo-bo neighborhood, an Ouattara stronghold, for three weeks but shifted this week closer to the center of town. Fighting has also spread to the west, across a north-south ceasefire line in place since the end of the 2002-3 war, increasing fears that an election meant to reunite the country will instead reignite the conflict. Army chief General Philippe Mangou, whose immediate neighborhood in west Abidjan was the scene of intense gun battles on Monday, told the pro-Gbagbo newspaper Notre Voie on Tuesday that his forces were ready for war. "If they push us toward war, we'll make war. This is what we in the process of doing," he was quoted as saying. The rebels who seized the north during the war have backed Ouattara but Ouattara's camp has distanced itself from the fighting. □



Girl stands amid debris

Quake response shows Japan's resilient nature

By JAY ALABASTER
Associated Press

TAGAJI, Japan — Close to the epicenter of Japan's devastating earthquake and tsunami, workers at a warehouse hauled out cans of coffee and soda this week to offer to passers-by for free. "Help yourself! Take what you need!" they yelled as they put box after box on the sidewalk. Their boss Kazuyoshi Chiba said the phone lines are down, so he can't reach company headquarters, but "I think this is the right thing to do." With the same mixture of resilience and resignation that has lifted Japan out of previous disasters, many survivors of last Friday's calamity are calmly pitching in to help themselves and others, taking life one day at a time. Four days on, there is little of the public anger and frustration that so often bursts forth in other countries. The one exception may be near the troubled Fukushima nuclear plant, where fears of radiation leaks are spooking residents and fraying tempers. □

In London

2012 countdown clock stops

LONDON — The electronic clock counting down the 500 days to the start of the 2012 London Olympics stopped on Tuesday in an embarrassing glitch less than a day after it was unveiled in a glitzy launch. The steel clock made by Omega in London's Trafalgar Square ground to a halt at 500 days, seven hours, six minutes and 56 seconds, then began counting the wrong way before a technician arrived to repair it. Omega said in a statement: "We are obviously very disappointed that the clock has suffered this technical issue. "The Omega London 2012 countdown clock was developed by our experts and fully tested ahead of the launch in Trafalgar Square. "We are currently looking into why this happened and expect to have the clock func-



Electronic clock counting down 500 days

tioning as normal as soon as possible." Four British Olympic champions rowers Pete Reed and Andy Hodge and sailors Iain Percy and Andrew Simpson unveiled the clock on Monday to mark the 500-day countdown to the opening ceremony. It is 6.5 meters high, five meters long and weighs around

four tons. It took 10 people two days to assemble. A spokesman for the London 2012 organizers joked: "Whilst the clock has stopped, and Omega is trying to sort it out, it does not give us additional time to stage the Games." Tickets for the Olympics went on sale to the public on Tuesday. □

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US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

Egypt dissolves hated state security agency

By ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press

CAIRO – Egypt's interior minister on Tuesday dissolved the country's widely hated state security agency, which was accused of torture and other human rights abuses in the suppression of dissent against ousted President Hosni Mubarak's nearly 30-year rule. The new interior minister, Maj. Gen. Mansour el-Essawy, a former Cairo security chief, said in a statement that a new agency in charge of keeping national security and combating terrorism will be formed.

Dismantling the State Security Investigations agency was a major demand of the protest movement that led an 18-day uprising to oust Mubarak. Since he stepped down on Feb. 11, Egyptians have stormed the agency's main headquarters and other offices, seizing documents to keep them from being destroyed to hide evidence of human rights abuses.

Many protest leaders have said that despite the fall of Mubarak and his government, the agency remained active in protecting the old regime and trying to sabotage the democratic transition. Islam Lotfi, a leading youth activist, called it an "excellent move" but one that should be followed by other steps to restore the Egyptian people's sense of trust and security.

Potential radiation accident

Japan braces for catastrophe

By Shinichi Saoshiro
Associated Press

TOKYO – Japan faced a potential catastrophe on Tuesday after a quake-crippled nuclear power plant exploded and sent low levels of radiation floating toward Tokyo, prompting some people to flee the capital and others to stock up on essential supplies. The crisis appeared to escalate late in the day when the operators of the facility said one of two blasts had blown a hole in the building housing a reactor, which meant spent nuclear fuel was exposed to the atmosphere.

Prime Minister Naoto Kan urged people within 30 km of the facility a population of 140,000 to remain indoors amid the world's most serious nuclear accident since the Chernobyl disaster in Ukraine in 1986. Officials in Tokyo 240 km (150 miles) to the south of the plant said radiation in the capital was 10 times normal by evening but posed no threat to human health in the sprawling high-tech city of 13 million people. Toxicologist Lee Tin-lap at the Chinese University of Hong Kong said such a radiation level was not an imme-



U.S. search and rescue team members search

diate threat to people but the long-term consequences were unknown.

"You are still breathing this into your lungs, and there is passive absorption in the skin, eyes and mouth and we really do not know what long-term impact that would have. Around eight hours after the explosions, the U.N. weather agency said winds were dispersing radioactive material over the Pacific Ocean, away from Japan and other Asian countries.

As concern about the crippling economic impact of the nuclear and earthquake disasters mounted, Japan's Nikkei

index fell as much as 14 percent before ending down 10.6 percent, compounding a slide of 6.2 percent the day before. The two-day fall has wiped some \$620 billion off the market.

Authorities have spent days desperately trying to prevent the water which is designed to cool the radioactive cores of the reactors from running dry, overheating and emitting dangerous radioactive materials. They said they may use helicopters to pour water on the most critical reactor, No. 4, within two or three days, but did not say why they would have to wait to do this. □

Avenging Altar Boy



MAUREEN DOWD

© 2011 New York Times

PHILADELPHIA – The district attorney is burning a eucalyptus-spearmint candle on his desk.

“I think the press looks down upon the DA drinking Jack Daniels during the day,” R. Seth Williams says with a broad smile, “so I light my little stress-relief candle.” It’s understandable if the former altar boy at St. Carthage in West Philly needs to light a votive.

The 44-year-old Catholic, who still attends Mass with his family at the same church, now called St. Cyprian, is the first U.S. prosecutor to charge a church official for a sickeningly commonplace sin: endangering children whom the Roman Catholic Church was supposed to protect by shuffling pedophile priests to different parishes where they could find fresh prey.

Williams, the first African-American elected district attorney in Pennsylvania, was an orphan given up by his unwed mother. He was put into two foster homes before he was adopted at 20 months old by a Catholic family.

“I grew up treating the hierarchy of the church kind of like rock stars,” he said in his 18th floor aerie, where he keeps a small iron crucifix and a cross fashioned from Palm Sunday fronds.

“If you’re going to meet the cardinal, you’re supposed to kiss the guy’s ring, all this stuff.

But it is what it is. I wish I knew the Latin translation for that.

“There’s no get-out-of-jail-free card for raping, sodomizing, groping, doing anything wrong to kids.”

Monsignor William J. Lynn,

who served from 1992 to 2004 as the secretary of clergy reviewing sexual abuse cases for then-Cardinal Anthony Bevilacqua, appeared in court Monday. He is charged with felonies for allegedly helping the cardinal cover up molesters and transferring them to other parishes.

“It was a conspiracy of silence to ensure the church’s reputation and to avoid scandal,” said Assistant District Attorney Evangelia Manos.

Lynn, a round, ruddy man in black priest’s garb, sat silently in court behind his two lawyers – paid by the archdiocese – as a cheering squad of priests and parishioners watched.

Lynn’s co-defendants sat beside him: a rabbity-looking Rev. James Brennan, 47, charged with raping a 14-year-old boy in 1996 in his apartment; and the unholy alliance of a priest, the sepulchral Charles Engelhardt, 64, a defrocked priest, Edward Avery, 68, and a former Catholic schoolteacher, Bernard Shero, 48 – all charged with raping or sodomizing the same 10-year-old altar boy 12 years ago.

Lynn’s lawyer, Thomas Bergstrom, told reporters that the charges against his client were “a stretch” and that he was pleading not guilty.

And Richard DeSipio, one of Brennan’s lawyers, went on the attack against his client’s accuser, now 29.

“Their witness is in prison in Bucks County for stealing his sister’s credit card and using it,” DeSipio told Mensah Dean of The Philadelphia Daily News. “He’s a convicted liar.”

On a local radio show on Tuesday, Brennan – a priest suspended by the church in 2006 – said he was uninterested in a plea deal, and his lawyer continued to paint the accuser as troubled.

Even with a global scandal that never seems to stop disgorging disgusting stories, the Philadelphia grand jury report is especially sordid.

It tells the story of a fifth-grade altar boy at St. Jerome School given the pseudonym Billy. Engelhardt plied him

with sacramental wine and pulled pornographic magazines out of a bag in the sacristy and told the child it was time “to become a man,” the report says.

A week later, after Billy served an early Mass, the report states that Engelhardt instructed him to take off his clothes and perform oral sex on him.

Then the priest told the boy he was “dismissed.”

“After that, Billy was in effect passed around to Engelhardt’s colleagues,” the report says. “Father Edward Avery undressed with the boy, told him that God loved him,” and then had him perform sex. “Next was the turn of Bernard Shero, a teacher in the school.

Shero offered Billy a ride home but instead stopped at a park, told Billy they were ‘going to have some fun,’ took off the boy’s clothes, orally and anally raped him and then made him walk the rest of the way home.”

Billy fell apart and turned to heroin.

The report says Brennan knew Mark from the time he was 9. When he was 14, the priest arranged with Mark’s mother for a sleepover.

“Brennan showed him pornographic pictures on his computer, bragged about his penis size and insisted that Mark sleep together with him in his bed.” Then the priest raped him as he cried, according to the report.

Mark also fell apart and attempted suicide.

Out of the church’s many unpleasant confrontations with modernity, this is the starkest. It’s tragically past time to send the message that priests can’t do anything they want and hide their sins behind special privilege.

In Seth Williams’ city, the law sees no collars, except the ones put on criminals. □



Cartoonists International: www.nytcn.com/cartoons

Iraq then, Libya now

ROSS DOUTHAT

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Five years ago, in the darkest days of insurgent violence and Sunni-Shiite strife, it seemed as if the Iraq war would shadow U.S. foreign policy for decades, frightening a generation’s worth of statesmen away from using military force. Where there had once been a “Vietnam syndrome,” now there would be an “Iraq syndrome,” inspiring harrowing flashbacks to Baghdad and Fallujah in any American politician contemplating an intervention overseas.

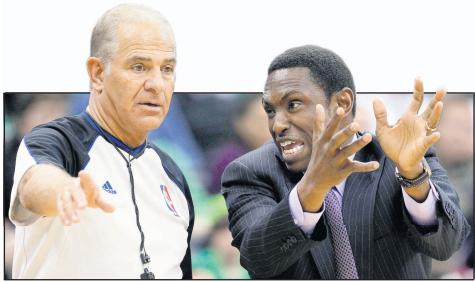
But in today’s Washington, no such syndrome is in evidence. Indeed, it’s striking how quickly the bipartisan coalition that backed the Iraq invasion has reassembled itself to urge President Barack Obama to use military force against Libya’s Moammar Gadhafi.

The Iraq war became known as George W. Bush’s war after Saddam Hussein’s weapons of mass destruction didn’t turn up, because at that point no liberal wanted to take responsibility for the conflict. But the initial invasion was supported by Democrats as well as Republicans, liberal internationalists as well as neoconservatives – Hillary Rodham Clinton as well as John McCain, The New Republic as well as The Weekly Standard. Now a similar chorus is arguing that the United States should intervene di-

rectly in Libya’s civil war: with a no-fly zone, certainly, and perhaps with arms for the Libyan rebels and airstrikes against Gadhafi’s military as well. As in 2002 and 2003, the case for intervention is being pushed by a broad cross-section of politicians and opinion-makers, from Bill Clinton to Bill Kristol, Fareed Zakaria to Newt Gingrich, John Kerry to Christopher Hitchens.

The justifications for military action, too, echo many of the arguments marshaled for toppling Saddam Hussein. America’s credibility is on the line. The Libyan people deserve our support. Deposing Gadhafi will strike a blow for democracy and human rights. It’s a testament to the resilience of American power that we’re hearing these kind of arguments so soon after the bloodiest years of the Iraq war. It’s also a testament to the achievements of the U.S. military: absent the successes of the 2007 troop surge, we’d probably be too busy extricating ourselves from a war-torn Iraq to even contemplate another military intervention in a Muslim nation. But that resilience and those achievements may have set a trap for us, by encouraging the American leadership class to draw relatively narrow lessons from the Iraq war – lessons that only apply to wars premised on faulty WMD intelligence, or wars led by Rumsfeld. □

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NBA ref sues over Twitter post

New Jersey Nets coach Avery Johnson, right, talks to referee Bennett Salvatore during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game against the Boston Celtics on Monday, March 14, 2011, in Newark, N.J. The Nets won 88-79 to extend their winning streak to five games.

Associated Press

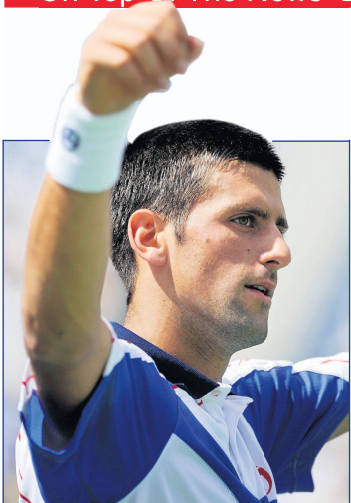
Page 4

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com Website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: 582-7800 Wednesday, March 16, 2011



Novak Djokovic of Serbia, celebrates after defeating Ernests Gulbis of Latvia, 6-0, 6-1 in their match at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament, Tuesday, March 15, 2011, in Indian Wells, Calif.

Associated Press

Djokovic, Ivanovic win at Indian Wells

INDIAN WELLS, California (AP) — Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic rolled on at the BNP Paribas Open, easily winning third-round matches Tuesday while Kim Clijsters retired with a painful shoulder.

Federer defeated 29th-seeded Juan Ignacio Chela of Argentina 6-0, 6-2, and Djokovic routed Ernests Gulbis 6-0, 6-1 with temperatures reaching 90 degrees in the desert.

Federer is 16-2 this year, while Djokovic has dropped just three sets during his 14-0 start, including his run to the titles at the Australian Open and Dubai.

"I'm very, very focused.

Continued Page2



A DOG'S LIFE

Baker wins Iditarod in record time

Musher John Baker pets his lead dogs Snickers and Velvet after winning the the 2011 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race on Tuesday, March 15, 2011 in Nome, Alaska.

Associated Press
Page 2

Alpine skiers pledge WCup prize money to Japan

LENZERHEIDE, Switzerland (AP) — Alpine racers pledged on Tuesday to donate some of their prize money at the World Cup finals to relief efforts in Japan. United States racer Julia Mancuso launched the fundraiser by promising half her race earnings this week to the www.skiershelpingjapan.com campaign website. Mancuso, Japanese skier Akira Sasaki and former Olympian Kazuko Ikeda have written to World Cup teams seeking support. Sasaki pointed out that the 1993 world championships venue Morioka is in the Tohoku region which was badly affected by last Friday's earthquake and tsunami.

"Any money raised by us, the World Cup family, will be a great inspiration for skiers in Tohoku and the rest of Japan who are suffering at the moment," he wrote.

"I am so grateful for any and all help," wrote Sasaki, a three-time runner-up in World Cup races. World Cup races carry prize money of 100,000 Swiss francs (\$109,000; €78,000).

Last year, Alpine skiers responded to the Haiti earthquake by giving autographed race bibs for an auction. More than \$90,000 was raised for relief work by the American Red Cross.

The biggest prize was the bib worn by Switzerland's Didier Cuche when he won the 2010 Hahnenkamm downhill at Kitzbuehel, Austria, which sold for \$16,209. □

John Baker wins Iditarod



John Baker and his lead dogs Velvet and Snickers pose at the finish line after winning the the 2011 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race on Tuesday, March 15, 2011 in Nome, Alaska.

Associated Press

NOME, Alaska (AP) — John Baker won the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race on Tuesday, reclaiming the title of Iditarod champion for an Alaska Native musher.

Baker, 48, of Kotzebue steered his dog team down the main drag in this gold rush town on Alaska's western coast to win the 1,150-mile race from Anchorage to Nome, and get his name in the record books.

He is the first Alaska Native musher to win the world's longest sled dog race since Jerry Riley did it in 1976.

Baker also shattered exactly by three hours the race record held by four-time champion Martin Buser, who completed

the 2002 race in eight days, 22 hours and 46 minutes. Baker completed the race in 8 days, 19 hours and 46 minutes.

"Running a team like this, there is nothing better," Baker said after the finish. "I am really proud of this."

The soft-spoken Baker then began shaking hands with some of the hundreds of people who lined up to watch the finish shortly after sunrise on a crisp but clear morning.

He was greeted by a group of musicians playing Eskimo drums. Many in the crowd wore traditional Eskimo parkas. Bertha Koweluk, 43, an Alaska Native from Nome, watched the finish with her

8-year-old daughter, and said that Baker's win will inspire Native people across the state. "He represents a resilient people and it just shows we're strong and we can overcome," she said.

She said that so many times Alaska Natives are depicted as weak and crippled by addiction. But Baker's win, she said, illustrates an untold story of her people.

"We all need people to look up to, and this is a good guy to look up to," she said.

The race's top 30 finishers will share in a \$528,000 purse. Baker received \$50,400 and a new truck for winning. Baker had 11 top-10 finishes in 15 years of Iditarod racing.

In 2010, he was one of the front-runners when confusion and fatigue may have cost him an Iditarod championship. He lost five hours about halfway into the race because he became convinced that he had lost the trail, when actually he was still on it.

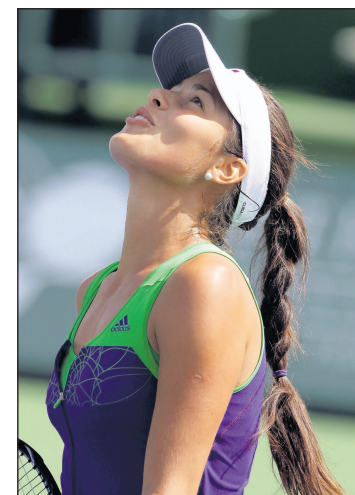
By the time Baker figured out his mistake the leaders were well ahead and his job then was to try to salvage what he could of the race.

Baker finished fifth.

He took the lead in this year's race on Saturday as he approached the western coast of Alaska and training terrain familiar to him and his dogs.

Ramey Smyth challenged Baker toward the end of the race.

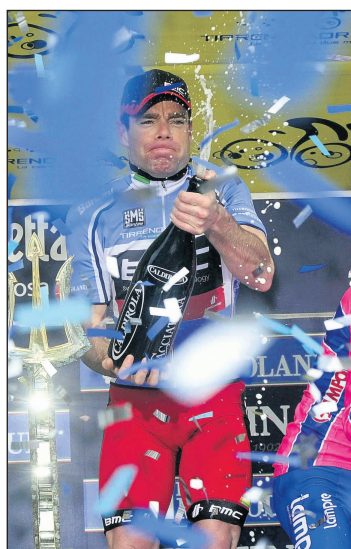
The 35-year-old musher from Willow — who finished sixth last year, just one spot behind Baker — closed the gap to less than one hour but couldn't catch him down the stretch. □



Indian Wells

Continued from Page B1

Nowadays, I'm feeling great on the court, and I'm motivated to have more success," Djokovic said. "So I just need to keep up, and that's what I'm trying to do." Djokovic could knock Federer from the No. 2 ranking this week if he reaches the final or he reaches the semifinals and Federer loses before the quarterfinals. Clijsters, a two-time champion, retired from her fourth-round match against 15th-seeded Marion Bartoli because of a right shoulder injury. She won the first set 6-3 and trailed 3-1 in the second when she left the court. Clijsters' shoulder has bothered her since she won the Australian Open in January. She feels pain during her service motion and when she hits high forehands. Something is not the way it should be at the moment in this area, so I'm going to have to figure it out, going to have some tests done," she said. "I don't want to be in that position where I'm taking medication to cover the pain and not knowing if it's getting worse during my match." Clijsters said she plans to fly to Miami for next week's tournament and receive treatment before her first match there. □



Evans wins Tirreno; Cancellara takes time trial

SAN BENEDETTO DEL TRONTO, Italy (AP) — Australian rider Cadel Evans won the weeklong Tirreno-Adriatico race Tuesday,

Australia's Cadel Evans celebrates on the podium after winning the Tirreno-Adriatico cycling race, in San Benedetto del Tronto, Italy, Tuesday, March 15, 2011.

Associated Press

while Swiss specialist Fabian Cancellara took the concluding time trial.

Evans finished with an 11-second lead in the overall standings ahead of Dutch rider Robert Gesink, while Michele Scarponi of Italy was third, 15 seconds back. The 2009 world champion, Evans finished second overall in the Tour

de France in 2007 and '08. Evans' victory was somewhat surprising considering he had hardly competed this season before this race.

"I trained really hard this winter," Evans said, adding that his main goal is to get back onto the podium in the Tour. "That's why I didn't race much early this season. I'm working toward this

goal in July."

Giro d'Italia winner Ivan Basso finished fourth overall, 24 seconds behind, and Spanish Vuelta champion Vincenzo Nibali was fifth, 30 seconds back.

Cancellara clocked 10 minutes, 33 seconds over the 9.3-kilometer (5.8-mile) individual time trial in San Benedetto del Tronto. □

NHL Roundup

Canucks score 3 in first, hold off Wild in 4-2 win

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Raffi Torres, Daniel Sedin and Ryan Kesler scored in the first period and the Vancouver Canucks hung on for their sixth straight win with a 4-2 victory over the Minnesota Wild on Monday. Kesler added his second goal into an empty net with 3.4 seconds left after the Wild failed to convert two power plays in the final 5 minutes with a chance to tie the game. Roberto Luongo finished with 32 saves for the league-leading Canucks, who were back home after sweeping a five-

game road trip, and became the first NHL team to pass the century mark this season with 101 points. Minnesota captain Mikko Koivu returned to the lineup after missing 11 games with a broken finger to set up Andrew Brunette's goal late in the second period, and scored one of his own 4:32 into the third period. They were Minnesota's first goals in three games but came too late to prevent a third straight loss. Blackhawks 6, Sharks 3. At Chicago, Marian Hossa scored two power-play goals less than 3 minutes apart to

ignite a five-goal outburst by Chicago in the second period. Jonathan Toews and Patrick Kane each had a goal and an assist in the second as Chicago moved into fourth place in the Western Conference with 84 points. Kane's goal was the 100th of his career. Viktor Stalberg and Niklas Hjalmarsson also scored, and Patrick Sharp had a career-high four assists for the Blackhawks. Joe Pavelski, Joe Thornton and Logan Couture scored for the Sharks, who lost in regula-



Vancouver Canucks left wing Jeff Tambellini (10) collides with Minnesota Wild right wing Antti Miettinen (20) during the third period of an NHL hockey game Monday, March 14, 2011, in Vancouver, British Columbia. Vancouver won 4-2.

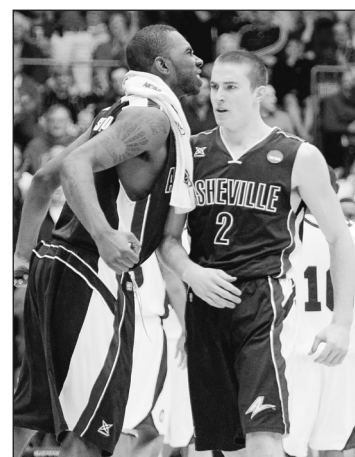
Associated Press

UNC Asheville opens NCAA tourney with 81-77 OT win

DAYTON, Ohio — Matt Dickey and North Carolina-Asheville injected a little customary March drama into the NCAA's new-look tournament. Dickey led a late run that brought overtime, and J.P. Primm hit five free throws and had a decisive steal in the closing seconds Tuesday night, sending UNC Asheville to an 81-77 victory over Arkansas-Little Rock in a dramatic "First Four" opener. "We don't have any quit in this team," UNC Asheville coach Eddie Biedenbach said. The Bulldogs (20-13) will play Pittsburgh, the top seed in the Southeast, on Thursday in Washington, D.C. UNC Asheville pulled it out with a tournament-worthy performance by its best player. The Bulldogs led for only 51 seconds in regulation, before Dickey asserted himself. He scored 14 of the Bulldogs' last 18 points in regulation, including a 3 with 10.5 seconds to go that tied it. "I hit one in the corner and it was a good time for it to fall," Dickey said. Primm and Dickey had 22 points apiece. Alex Garcia-Mendoza matched his career high with 21 points for Arkansas-Little Rock (19-17). The Trojans played overtime without Solomon Bozeman,

the Sun Belt's player of the year who fouled out in the final minute of regulation. He finished with 18 points. Each year, the tournament turns into a big stage looking for a star. Dickey became the first to take the spotlight. The shooting guard asserted himself with nine minutes left, leading the late surge that culminated in his 3-pointer from the left corner. Matt Mouzy missed a 3 at the buzzer, sending it to overtime. There were five lead changes in overtime, the last coming on Primm's two free throws

that made it 78-77 and put the Bulldogs in position to win yet another overtime tournament game in Dayton. The Bulldogs also opened the tournament in Dayton in 2003, when they became the first Big South team to win an NCAA tournament game. They went overtime to beat Texas Southern 92-84 in a one-game play-in for the 65-team field. UNC Asheville received a key to their city last week for making it to the NCAA tournament, something they'd done only one other time in school history. □



North Carolina-Asheville guard Chris Stephenson bumps guard Matt Dickey (2) after Dickey hit a three-point shot to put their first round NCAA college basketball game against Arkansas-Little Rock into overtime, Tuesday, March 15, 2011, in Dayton, Ohio. Dickey scored 22 points in the game won by North Carolina-Asheville 81-77.

tion for just the fourth time in their last 25 games. Lightning 6, Maple Leafs 2. At Toronto, Mattias Ritola scored twice and Dwayne Roloson made 30 saves as Tampa Bay dealt a blow to Toronto's playoff hopes. Nate Thompson had a goal and an assist, and Vincent Lecavalier, Dominic Moore and Mike Lundin also scored as Tampa Bay kept Toronto six points back of the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference. Teddy Purcell picked up three assists and Martin St. Louis and Brett Clark added two each for the Lightning. In other NHL game it was Tampa Bay 6, Toronto 2; Chicago 6, San Jose 3; and Vancouver 4, Minnesota 2. □

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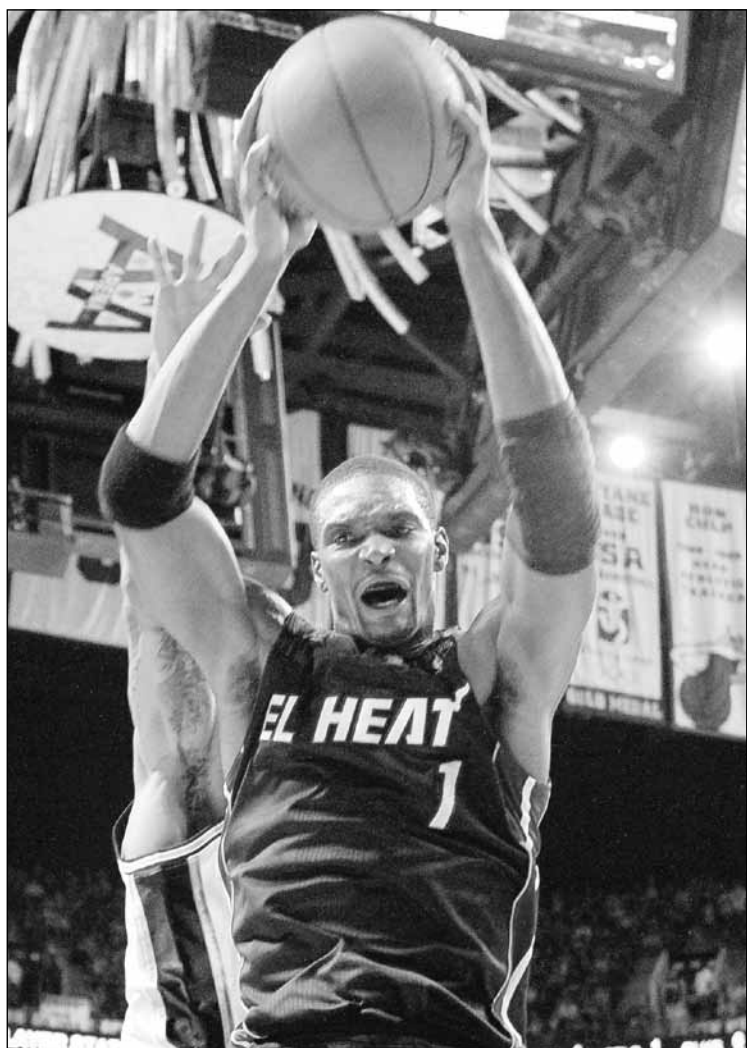
MARS NEEDS MOMS
daily: 4.00 - 6.00 - 8.00 - 10.00
matinee: 12.00 - 2.00
late show: 12.00
NEW PG
HALL PASS
daily: 5.00 - 7.15 - 9.30
matinee: 12.30 - 2.45
late show: 11.45
NEW R
BATTLE LOS ANGELES
daily: 4.00 - 6.30 - 9.00
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late show: 11.30
NEW SP PG-13
RANGO
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late show: 12.00
SP PG
UNKNOWN
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late show: 11.45
PG-13
BIG MOMMAS HOUSE 3
daily: 8.30
matinee: 11.00
late show: 11.00
SP PG-13
DRIVE ANGRY
daily: 4.00 - 6.15
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late show: 1.30
R

AT PASEO HERENCIA

MARS NEEDS MOMS
daily: 5.00 - 7.00 - 9.00
matinee: 1.00 - 3.00
late show: 11.00
NEW PG
THE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU
daily: 5.00 - 7.15 - 9.30
matinee: 12.30 - 2.45
late show: 11.45
NEW PG-13
BATTLE LOS ANGELES
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PG-13

SP = subtítulos en Español

Matinee: sat - mon | Late show: fri & sat



Miami Heat's Chris Bosh recovers a rebound against the San Antonio Spurs in the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game in Miami, Monday, March 14, 2011. The Heat won 110-80.

Associated Press

NBA Roundup

Heat roll Spurs 110-80

Bosh scores 30

MIAMI (AP) — Chris Bosh scored 30 points and grabbed 12 rebounds, and Dwyane Wade scored 29 as the Miami Heat avenged their worst loss of the season by rolling past the NBA-leading Spurs 110-80 on Monday.

LeBron James finished with 21 points, eight assists and six rebounds for the Heat, who have won three straight and moved within two games of Eastern Conference front-runners Boston and Chicago. Miami lost 125-95 in San Antonio on March 4, the midpoint of a five-game slide that now seems all but forgotten after wins over the Los Angeles Lakers, Memphis Grizzlies and now the Spurs.

Tony Parker scored 18 points and Tim Duncan added 14 for the Spurs, who had won 15 of their last 18 against Miami.

Lakers 97, Magic 84

At Los Angeles, Pau Gasol scored 23 points and Kobe Bryant added 16 while playing on a sprained left ankle as the Los Angeles Lakers scored their 10th win in 11 games over Orlando.

Andrew Bynum had 10 points, a career high-tying 18 rebounds and four blocks as the two-time defending NBA champions opened a seven-game homestand with another impressive post-All-Star effort.

The Lakers (48-20) also drew virtually even with the Dallas Mavericks (47-19) for second place in the Western Conference standings.

Dwight Howard had 22 points, 15 rebounds and nine turnovers — four more than the entire Lakers squad — for the Magic.

Kings 129, Warriors 119

At Sacramento, California, Marcus Thornton scored 42 points and Samuel Dalembert had 27 in what might have been the final meeting ever in Sacramento against Golden State. DeMarcus Cousins added 15 as the Kings had their second-highest scoring game of the season and shot 57 percent to win for just the second time in their past nine home games. Al Thornton scored 23 points and Stephen Curry added 19 to lead the Warriors. The Kings are contemplating a move to Anaheim after the season.

Rockets 95, Suns 93

At Houston, Kevin Martin scored 23 points, Chuck Hayes had a career-high 21 points and nine rebounds as Houston snapped a seven-game losing streak to Phoenix.

Kyle Lowry added 18 points, six rebounds and five assists for the Rockets, who stayed three games behind Memphis in the race for the final playoff spot. Vince Carter scored 21 to lead the Suns, who played without point guard Steve Nash for the second straight game. The Suns slipped 2 1/2 games behind the Grizzlies in the race for the No. 8 playoff spot in the West.

Nets 88, Celtics 79

At Newark, New Jersey, Brook Lopez scored 20 points, and Deron Williams added 16 and made the clinching 3-pointer, as New Jersey extended its longest winning streak in three years to five games.

Kris Humphries had 16 points and 15 rebounds, following his strong performance against Blake Griffin by turning in one against Kevin Garnett to help the Nets snap a nine-game home losing streak against the Celtics.

Ray Allen scored 19 points and Garnett had 18 for the Celtics.

Thunder 116, Wizards 89

At Washington, Kevin Durant scored 32 points and Russell Westbrook had 18 points and 12 assists as Oklahoma City downed Washington.

It was the 25th time this season that Durant, the NBA scoring leader, scored at least 30 points. He scored 40 in the previous meeting between the two teams on Jan. 28.

Daequan Cook had 18 points and was 6 for 9 on 3-pointers for Oklahoma City, which has now won four straight and six of seven, as well as the last five meetings against Washington. Trevor Booker had 14 points and a career-high 13 rebounds, John Wall had 14 points, seven rebounds and five assists, and JaVale McGee also scored 14 points for the Wizards.

Nuggets 114, Hornets 103

At New Orleans, Ty Lawson scored 23 points as Denver combined for 17 3-pointers in a victory over New Orleans. Raymond Felton added 22 points, hitting six 3s for Denver, while J.R. Smith hit five 3s and finished with 18 points.

In other NBA games it was New Jersey 88, Boston 79; Oklahoma City 116, Washington 89; Memphis 105, L.A. Clippers 82; Denver 114, New Orleans 103; Miami 110, San Antonio 80; Houston 95, Phoenix 93; Utah 112, Philadelphia 107, OT; Sacramento 129, Golden State 119; and L.A. Lakers 97, Orlando 84.

NBA ref sues AP, sports writer over Twitter post

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — An NBA referee has sued The Associated Press and one of its sports writers over a Twitter message suggesting he intentionally made a bad call to make up for a previous bad call that went against the Minnesota Timberwolves. In a federal lawsuit filed Monday in Minneapolis, veteran NBA referee William Spooner claimed AP sports writer Jon Krawczynski defamed him in the Twitter message, sent while he was covering the Jan. 24 Rockets-Timberwolves game. In the second period, Spooner called a foul against a Timberwolves player. According to Spooner's lawsuit, Wolves coach Kurt Rambis argued the call and Spooner told him he would review it at halftime. Ram-



Golden State Warriors head coach Keith Smart, right, argues a call with referee Josh Tiven in the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Philadelphia 76ers, Sunday, March 6, 2011, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

bis said that was fine, but asked how he was supposed to get the points back, according to the lawsuit. Spooner says in the lawsuit that he didn't respond to Rambis. But Krawczynski, seated courtside, posted a tweet that said, "Ref Bill Spooner told Rambis he'd 'get it back' after a bad call.

Then he made an even worse call on Rockets. That's NBA officiating folks." The Rockets went on to win the game 129-125. Spooner claims the Twitter message led to a disciplinary investigation by the NBA and that his professional reputation has been hurt. □

Swing coach Sean Foley steps into Tiger's lair

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

PALM HARBOR, Florida

(AP) — Sean Foley had a peaceful Tuesday morning on the PGA Tour. No more than a half-dozen people paid attention as he walked a practice round with a client who was coming off a strong finish that was sorely needed. That would be Stephen Ames, who tied for third in Puerto Rico.

It's that other client — Tiger Woods — who brings Foley more scrutiny than ever, and lately, more criticism.

Woods was 100 miles away in a made-for-TV exhibition on his home golf course, although that won't stop the growing debate about where he is in this "process" of changing his swing, and whether he is heading down the right path.

Foley was expecting this when they first began working together last August at the PGA Championship.

"When I started with Tiger, I didn't think it would be a month and then he'd kill everyone," Foley said. "Remember, I got him right after Akron, the low point of his professional career."

It was last year at Firestone, where Woods had won seven times and had never finished worse than fifth, that he had the worst 72-hole score of his career (298) and tied for 78th against an 80-man field.

A few months later, Foley said he stopped reading golf stories and turned the volume down when watching golf on TV. He says the criticism doesn't bother him.

"Look, I'm a Canadian who at 19 was a white kid at an all-black university," said Foley, who played college golf at Tennessee State. "This couldn't even be called criticism what I'm going through now."

With Woods, criticism comes with the territory.

"For some reason," Woods said last week with a grin, "I tend to get a little bit more scrutinized than most players do, analyzed to the nth degree about what goes on within one round of golf. That's something new to him. He has not quite faced that. But

he said the one positive thing is I'm always on TV, so he gets to look at a lot of golf swings." Hank Haney caught it just as bad, if not worse, when he was revamping Woods' swing through 2004. One player jokingly said he was thinking about suing Haney for loss of wages if Woods didn't regain his form. Woods eventually picked up Haney's instruction and went on to win six majors and more than 40 percent of his tournaments, astounding numbers that no one else in this generation has come close to matching — except for Woods earlier in his career.

Foley says he has an "alligator's hide" when it comes to taking criticism. Trouble is, he also has an alligator's mouth when it comes to talking, and he replaced a swing coach who has rice paper for skin and prefers to do his talking in 140 characters or fewer.

Haney took Twitter to an extreme last week during the Cadillac Championship.

It started last September when Foley said in an interview with foxsports.com, "Let's be honest about this, it's not like he was flushing it with Hank." Then came an interview with golf.com in which Foley said nothing about Woods' previous swing made any sense to him. Haney fired off more tweets than Vijay Singh hits balls on the practice range, using Woods' results as affirmation. "I think it was more of a reaction to what I had said that I never fully understood what they were working on," Foley said. "He's got every right to comment back. But to the extreme and the amount ... I was like, 'Do you have anything else to do?'"

"Tiger and Hank won a lot of majors, a lot of tournaments, and you can't take that away from the guy. And he helped Tiger," Foley said. "He's allowed to say what he wants. If I offended him, I didn't mean to. But Tiger helped build Hank's career, not the other way around."

All this must be somewhat amusing to Butch Harmon, who is not immune to criticism. Harmon recalls hearing the skeptics after Woods won the Masters by a record 12 shots and decided to overhaul

his swing.

"Everyone said we were crazy, that I was going to ruin him," Harmon said Tuesday. It worked out OK.

Even now, as it was when Woods was with Haney, there are a number of experts who think Woods ought to just go back to Harmon and repeat what he was doing in 2000 when won 10 times around the world, including three straight majors. Harmon says it's not that simple. The equipment is different, Woods' physique has changed and "he's had three surgeries since I had him." Harmon came from a no-nonsense family of golf teachers — father Claude, a former Masters champion, along with brothers Billy, Craig and Dick, who died five years ago. He also had the experience of taking Greg Norman to No. 1 before working with Woods.

His only advice is to Foley as a coach, not what Foley is coaching. Harmon says Foley has it the toughest because he took the job when Woods was at his worst — not only with his golf game, but trying to patch together a personal life torn apart. "I had it



In this Dec. 1, 2010 file photo, Tiger Woods views a video of his tee shot, made by his swing coach Sean Foley during the Chevron World Challenge golf tournament.

Associated Press

the easiest," Harmon said. "I had him when he was a teenager. He was young. He did everything I asked him to do. He wasn't married. He didn't have those outside problems. Sean is young (36). He's got a big ego.

He's been thrown into a difficult situation. He probably

got Tiger at the worst time. When Tiger left me and went to Hank, he was still a good player."

Harmon said he has talked to Foley about not letting the media beat him up, to accept praise and criticism in equal measure, and to expect the latter far more often. □



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S. Africa into quarters with victory over Ireland

GERALD IMRAY

AP Sports Writer

KOLKATA, India (AP) —

South Africa followed up a shaky batting effort with a strong bowling performance to beat Ireland by 131 runs at the World Cup on Tuesday and confirm its place in the quarterfinals.

The Irish were bowled out for 141 in 33.2 overs, chasing 273 for victory in the Group B game at Eden Gardens. The defeat ended Ireland's slim hopes of reaching the knock-out stages.

Leftarm spinner Robin Peterson took 3-32 and fast bowler Morne Morkel 3-33 to lead South Africa to an ultimately comfortable win after JP Duminy had rescued the Proteas from an early batting collapse with his 99 from 103 balls.

Duminy dragged his team back from 117-5, when a fighting display from Ireland in the field had sent South Africa's top order reeling.

Jacques Kallis had 2-20 and spinners Johan Botha and Duminy took a wicket apiece in a



Vancouver Canucks' Manny Malhotra (27) knocks over Minnesota Wild's Matt Cullen (7) to clear the puck during the final minutes of third period during an NHL hockey game Monday, March 14, 2011, in Vancouver, British Columbia. Vancouver won 4-2.

convincing finish from South Africa. South Africa's bowlers broke through straight away, with Morkel opening with a two-wicket burst that removed Irish openers William Porterfield and Paul Stirling in the space of nine balls. Morkel had Ireland captain

Porterfield caught for six by opposite number Graeme Smith at first slip off the final ball of his first over.

Another rising delivery accounted for Stirling in the lanky Morkel's second over, the fourth of the innings, when the Irishman edged to

Jacques Kallis at second slip. Kallis picked up the wicket of Niall O'Brien (10), also in his first over, and the trend continued when offspinner Johan Botha needed just five balls to have Ed Joyce lbw for 12. An umpire review couldn't save Joyce.

Gary Wilson and the big-hitting Kevin O'Brien combined for 41 runs, with Wilson briefly counterattacking with four boundaries and a sweetly-timed six over midwicket off slow leftarmer Peterson. Peterson hit back to send them both packing in three balls.

O'Brien fell first, lofting tamely to Hashim Amla at long-off and Wilson was out lbw as Ireland slid rapidly toward defeat at 92-6.

Duminy's memorable night continued when he had Trent Johnston (12) caught behind by Van Wyk.

South Africa closed out its fourth win in five games at the World Cup when Morkel halted George Dockrell's 16-run cameo via a spectacular diving catch by Van Wyk.

Earlier, Colin Ingram backed up Duminy with 46 from 43 balls on his World Cup debut after he was brought in to the lineup in place of the injured AB de Villiers. South Africa's leading runscore missed the game with a left thigh strain. □

NHL GMs decide against ban on head shots



BOCA RATON, Fla. — Eager to keep their game fast and physical, NHL general managers decided Tuesday against recommending major rule changes to curb concussions, opting to push for tighter enforcement of charging and boarding penalties instead. The GMs also will stress the need for with longer suspensions for illegal head hits, particularly for repeat offenders. A rise in concussions this season, including two recent high-profile cases, put the is-

sue at the top of the GMs' agenda. But following a second day of meetings, Commissioner Gary Bettman said the group decided a ban on all head shots would be too radical a response.

Instead, the GMs focused on existing rules that pertain to charging and boarding.

"By the time the season is over there will be 55,000 hits, and a small percentage are resulting in concussions," Bettman said. "We want to eliminate concussions, but the

view is if we can define a rule that makes sense and doesn't cause other problems in the game, we're going to try and do that." Also rejected were changes that would slow the game to reduce the force of collisions. "We don't want to slow down the game," Montreal's Pierre Gauthier said. "It's a good game." The GMs may still propose stricter rules on head hits involving a vulnerable player or excessive force, Bettman said.

A committee will study options and draft recommendations for the Board of Governors to consider at its June meeting, with possible implementation next season. Blind-side hits to the head were banned last year. Some hockey leagues prohibit all head shots, but the GMs decided against a blanket ban.

"It would take a lot of hitting out of the game, a lot of the physical part of the game that makes our game so appealing," Ottawa's Bryan Murray

said.

"The consensus is that the rules in the rule book are sufficient, and we've got to get to a tighter standard on calling charging and boarding," Toronto Maple Leafs GM Brian Burke said. "Without changing the fabric of the game, I think we can take out some of the more dangerous hits." Nearly half of all concussions this season have been caused by legal hits, according to a league study.

The GMs believe stiffer, more aggressive enforcement of charging and boarding violations will reduce that rate.

They think tougher disciplinary measures will help, too. Former All-Star Brendan Shanahan, the NHL's vice president of hockey and business development, said the GMs' push for longer suspensions was a significant step.

"It speaks volumes to the players and our fans that they're serious about safety in the game," Shanahan said.

As in other sports, awareness about concussions is on the rise in the NHL.

The league considers itself at the forefront in confronting the problem, but recent injuries intensified debate about the game's rules and policies. Pittsburgh Penguins star Sidney Crosby has been sidelined since early January because of a concussion, and the Canadiens' Max Pacioretty sustained a severe concussion and cracked vertebra last week when he was driven into a glass partition by Boston Bruins defenseman Zdeno Chara. On Monday, Bettman said the league would study ways to make the playing area safer, but he defended the league's decision not to fine or suspend Chara. Stiffer enforcement of boarding rules wouldn't have changed the legality of that collision, Bettman said. "It was a hockey play," he said. "It was an accident.

It had a horrific result." □

Ghostbusters lives on through comics, video games

MATT MOORE

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — More than 25 years later the answer to the question “Who ya gonna call?” remains “Ghostbusters!”

The specter-busting quartet that debuted in 1984 on movie screens and then was in a sequel and an animated series remains firmly planted in pop culture thanks, in part, to a wide international fan base, a new comic book series and a next-generation video game coming out this month.

“There’d be no Ghostbusters brand if not for the classic comedy that launched it all. It’s incredible that people are still responding more than 25 years later to these great stories and characters,” Mark Kaplan, vice president of consumer products at Sony Pictures Entertainment, told The Associated Press in an e-mail. “We love finding ways to expand that experience for the fans, whether it’s through midnight screenings and DVDs or

games, comics and toys that really allow audiences to engage with the movie.”

Tom Waltz, an editor at IDW Publishing, which released the first “Ghostbusters: Infestation” comic last week, called the quartet — Peter Venkman, Ray Stantz, Egon Spengler and Winston Zeddemore — a veritable brand name, one that has drawn fans of film, TV, comics and gaming.

“Movies, video games, the prose novels and obviously the comic books are intertwined and to the point where I think ... you’re trying to create a brand,” Waltz, who wrote the upcoming game, told the AP.

The original movie, titled “Ghost Busters” on screen, starred Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd and Harold Ramis as out-of-work parapsychology professors who set up a ghost removal service and featured Ernie Hudson as their hired gun. It remains one of the top-grossing comedies ever. Its theme song, by Ray Parker Jr.,

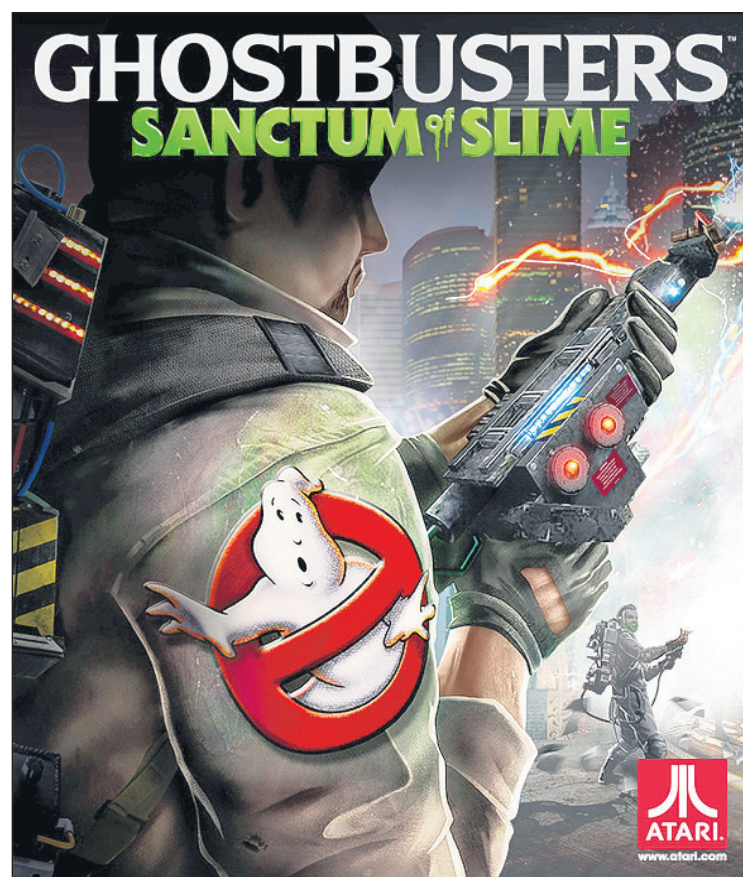
begins with the classic line, “If there’s something strange, in your neighborhood, who ya gonna call? Ghostbusters!”

The new Atari game, “Ghostbusters: Sanctum of Slime,” is set for release March 23 for Xbox Live Arcade, Sony PlayStation Network and Windows PCs via download at atari.com.

“In ‘Ghostbusters: Sanctum of Slime,’ we are introducing an entirely new look and gameplay experience on digital platforms that will impress new and loyal Ghostbusters fans alike,” said Jim Wilson, president and CEO of Atari Inc.

The upcoming release lets four players take part and play the roles of rookies who have been tapped to save New York from a ghoulish disaster.

Waltz called the four new characters — Alan Crendall, Samuel Hazer, Bridget Gibbons and Gabriel Sitter — not replacements for the original crew, led by Murray as Venkman, but the next generation.



In this video game cover image released by Atari, “Ghostbusters: Sanctum of Slime,” is shown.

“What I try to do, to a certain degree, is to mirror the four distinct personalities to our original heroes but in a way that the character who is the Venkman of the group would be the last person you’d think is the Venkman of the group,” he said.

He said he also strived to create “characters that are likable enough in their own way with their personalities,” so that “people will accept them.” Ultimately, he added, the characters in the game could find themselves being written into the comics, too. □

Verizon Wireless to start selling first 4G phone

By PETER SVENSSON

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK — Verizon Wireless says it will start selling its first phone capable of using its new, faster “4G” data network.

The ThunderBolt from HTC Corp. will go on sale Thursday for \$250 with a two-year contract. It has a large, 4.3-inch touch screen and runs Google Inc.’s Android software. Initially, Verizon will be selling it with an unlimited 4G data plan, but spokeswoman Brenda Raney says this option will probably go away later this year, along with the rest of Verizon’s unlimited data plans.

Verizon launched its 4G network in December, based on a technology known as Long-Term Evolution, or LTE. But

only laptop cards have been available for it. Verizon says customers can expect download speeds of 5 to 12 megabits per second, nearly ten times faster than 3G speeds.

Verizon’s 4G network has limited coverage and doesn’t carry phone calls, so the phone uses the 3G network as well. Verizon has said it plans to sell 10 devices for the 4G network by this summer, including phones and tablet computers. Xoom tablets from Motorola Mobility Inc. are already on sale with 3G modems, but it will be possible to upgrade them with 4G modems later this year.

Sprint Nextel Corp. launched its first 4G phone, the HTC Evo 4G, last summer. Its 4G network, run by subsidiary Clearwire Corp., is slower



In this product image provided by Verizon Wireless, the HTC Thunderbolt on Verizon 4G LTE, is shown.

Associated Press

than Verizon’s. T-Mobile USA and AT&T Inc. don’t have 4G networks under the common industry definition of the term, but call their 3G networks “4G” where they’ve been upgraded to higher speeds. They offer speeds similar to Sprint’s 4G. Verizon started to sell the iPhone last month in a 3G version. There’s no word on a 4G version. □

AT&T caps monthly traffic for DSL subscribers

By PETER SVENSSON

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK — AT&T is placing a limit on the amount of data its home Internet subscribers can transfer in a month.

AT&T Inc. portrayed Monday’s announcement as an attempt to curb “data hogs,” but it could help the company preserve a revenue stream in the long run as people shift to Internet-based TV services.

AT&T said it will start charging extra after subscribers go past 150 gigabytes in a month, an amount it said only 2 percent of subscribers reach.

In practice, only frequent high-definition movie downloads, file sharing or perhaps constant videoconferencing can propel subscribers close to the limit. AT&T said the average monthly consumption for DSL customers is 18 gigabytes.

For U-Verse, a faster version of DSL available in some areas, the monthly cap will be 250 gigabytes.

Beyond the limits, AT&T will charge \$10 per 50 gigabytes. It said it will warn subscribers repeatedly as they approach their monthly limits. AT&T said the caps will start applying on May 2, and it plans to notify subscribers this week.

Most U.S. Internet service providers already place limits on data traffic, but most of them don’t charge extra when the limits are exceeded. Instead, they warn subscribers and kick them off after repeated warnings.

Time Warner Cable Inc. tried to institute much lower usage caps in 2008, charging \$1 per gigabyte of overage. □

Uneasy economy dashes retirement confidence

By The Associated Press

Stocks have bounced back but Americans continue to have serious doubts about their retirement security.

The percentage of workers who said they're "not at all" confident about having enough money for a comfortable retirement grew to 27 percent from 22 percent in 2010, according to an annual survey of workers and retirees released Tuesday.

That's the highest level in the 21-year history of the Retirement Confidence Survey, conducted by the nonpartisan Employee Benefit Research Institute in Washington and market researcher Mathew Greenwald & Associates Inc. All told, half of all workers seriously question whether they'll have enough money for retirement. That's because another 23 percent said they are "not too confident" about whether their savings will be adequate.

A Few Highlights

Savings: About a third of workers and retirees report they had to dip into savings last year just to pay for basic expenses.

Debt: More than 20 percent of workers said debt is a major problem and 41 percent said it's a minor problem.

About 15 percent of retirees said debt is a major problem, more than double the percentage of respondents who reported having a major problem in 2005.

Some 27 percent said it's a minor problem.

Retirement Planning: About 70 percent of workers said they are "a lot" or "a little" behind schedule in planning for retirement; 15 percentage points higher than the response in 2005.

The percentage of workers reporting they were on track fell to 21 percent, from 37 percent in 2005.

Unemployment Factor

Continued high unemployment can take some of the credit for the deeper pessimism. "Individuals may



Protestors rally against Gov. Rick Snyder's proposed tax on retirement income Tuesday, March 15, 2011, outside the Michigan Capitol in Lansing, Mich.

Associated Press

have jobs but they see family members, friends, and neighbors impacted by unemployment," said Greg Burrows, a retirement services executive at Principal Financial Group, one of the underwriters of the survey. One measure that sheds some light on lower confidence is the 40 percent of workers out of a job for 27 weeks or longer, said Michael Sheldon, chief market strategist for RDM Financial, an adviser in Westport, Conn.

In prior recessions that never got above 25 to 30 percent, he said, "so this recession clearly has had a much wider and longer impact on the work force."

Working Longer

Economic conditions are forcing workers to redefine retirement, said the survey's co-au-

thor Jack VanDerhei, research director at EBRI. That often translates into working longer. About a fourth of workers said the age at which they expected to retire has changed in the past year. Of those, almost 90 percent said they've pushed back their retirement age.

The top reasons cited for working longer are the poor economy, lack of faith in Social Security or other government programs, a change in employment situation, and inadequate finances to retire.

"I thought about retiring or about cutting back or doing things a little differently," said Dr. Harris Rabinovich, a Philadelphia child psychiatrist, "but I certainly feel that there's been pressure on me to work longer." □



Hewlett Packard Company CEO Leo Apotheker speaks during a news conference in San Francisco, Monday, March 14, 2011.

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Hewlett-Packard Co. said Monday it plans to raise its dividend for the first time in

over a decade and one day soon will sell "cloud computing" services to the public. The changes are part of CEO



Oil prices fall to lowest level in weeks

NEW YORK (AP) — Oil prices fell sharply Tuesday on deepening fears about Japan's economy after its nuclear crisis worsened following a devastating earthquake and tsunami.

Potentially dangerous levels of radiation have been reported leaking from a crippled nuclear complex in the disaster area. More than 10,000 people are thought to have died after the earthquake and tsunami hit Japan on Friday.

Investors worried about diminished demand for oil and other products in Japan, the world's third-largest oil importer. However, Wall Street analysts expect that Japan will eventually increase imports of oil, coal and natural gas.

Royal Dutch Shell PLC said Tuesday that it will send liquefied natural gas and fuel oil to Japan to help meet power shortages. Japan produces about 28 percent of its energy from coal-fired power plants, but can also run some generators on LNG and even crude oil. Fifty-four nuclear reactors provide about 25 percent of the country's power. Four of those reactors are in the nuclear plant that leaked radiation.

Benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude for April delivery dropped \$4.01, or 4 percent, to settle at \$97.18 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

In London, Brent crude fell \$5.15, or 4.5 percent, to settle at \$108.52 per barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

The uncertainty over how long it could take Japan to recover triggered a sell-off in other commodities as well, as stocks markets fell around the world.

Many investors bought assets considered to be safer to hold during uncertain economic times, such as the dollar.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost nearly 300 points before regaining some ground to close down nearly 138 points, or 1.1 percent. The Standard & Poor's 500 index and the Nasdaq composite index also were lower.

Stocks got a boost off earlier lows after the Fed said it will stick with its \$600 billion bond repurchase program and the U.S. economy was on a firmer footing.

After a rise in oil prices like the world saw this month "we were due



The Statue of Liberty stands in New York Harbor with an oil storage facility behind it, Tuesday, March 15, 2011 in New York. Oil prices fell sharply Tuesday on deepening fears about Japan's economy after its nuclear crisis worsened following a devastating earthquake and tsunami.

Associated Press

for a sinkhole day like this," said Tom Kloza, publisher and chief oil analyst at Oil Price Information Service.

Oil prices are still higher than they were in mid-February when uprisings in Libya shut down that country's oil production and sent benchmark crude from about \$85 a barrel to more than \$105 a barrel last week, its highest level since September 2008. Libya produced only about 2 percent of the world's crude. Prices rose however on concerns that unrest would spread to bigger producers like Saudi Arabia. Troops from Saudi Arabia and other Arab nations are in neighboring Bahrain to help keep order as anti-government protests continue there.

Kloza and Tom Bentz, director of BNP Paribas Commodity Futures Inc., think oil prices will fall further because of ongoing concerns about Japan.

Bentz speculated prices could fall as low as \$95 a barrel in coming weeks. "It's going to be a while before Japan is able to recover from this and the market is starting to price that in," he said. □

Hewlett-Packard hikes dividend, outlines strategy

Leo Apotheker's efforts to chart a new course for the world's biggest technology company by revenue. Apotheker took over at HP four months ago after his predecessor, Mark Hurd, was ousted in a sexual harassment scandal. Apotheker's presentation Monday at a conference for industry analysts and reporters marked the first time he has publicly outlined his strategy for HP since taking the job.

He offered few details. The "public cloud" was one of the few new revelations. When it launches, it will put HP in competition with Amazon.

com and other companies that

have piled on to one of technology's hottest trends: selling services over the Internet. Such services allow people to rent space on servers they don't own, to run websites, for example.

Selling technology for building cloud services emerged as a cornerstone of Apotheker's plans for tying together HP's disparate resources. HP is a technology conglomerate. It's the biggest maker of personal computers and printers, and also sells servers and mobile phones and computer-networking equipment and technology services.

In focusing on the cloud, HP is positioning itself as the trusted

intermediary to link those technologies.

The dividend hike is an attempt to win over Wall Street.

The dividend has been 8 cents per share since 1998. It will rise to 12 cents per share the next time the board of directors declares a dividend, which should be in May, said HP's chief financial officer, Cathie Lesjak.

HP plans on increasing the dividend by a double-digit percentage every year, Lesjak said.

She also set a target of earnings of at least \$7 per share, excluding items, by 2014. The company earned \$4.58 per share, on that same basis, in the latest fis-

cal year.

Apotheker has been active behind the scenes. In an early attempt to win over HP's approximately 300,000 employees, one of his first acts as CEO was to reverse pay cuts imposed by Hurd. Shortly after he and a new chairman were hired, HP replaced a third of its board of directors, an unusually severe boardroom purging that targeted individuals who were particularly vocal in the negotiations over Hurd's ouster, both for and against the decision.

HP shares rose 21 cents, or .5 percent, to \$41.70 in extended trading. □

Subaru, Toyota curb output at North American plants

DETROIT (AP) — Two Japanese automakers are scaling back production at North American plants as they assess their ability to get parts from Japan after that country's devastating earthquake and tsunami.

Subaru of America said Tuesday it has suspended overtime at its only North American plant in Lafayette, Indiana. Toyota Motor Corp. also said it was suspending overtime and Saturday production at its 10 plants in the region.

So far, other Japanese automakers say their North American plants are unaffected. Nissan Motor Co., Honda Motor Co., Mitsubishi Motors and Mazda Motor Corp. all say they have not changed their production plans.

But that could change if lingering damage from the earthquake prevents parts shipments. Mitsubishi, for example, has enough parts on hand or en route to operate its Illinois assembly plant through April 3, spokesman Dan Irwin said.

"The situation is fluid, so we continue to monitor our supply chain and logistics," he said. In Japan, auto companies have shut down production for the rest of the week as they assess damage to plants, ports and roads.

While Japanese automakers with North American plants use locally-based suppliers for many of their parts, others still come from Japan. The U.S. imported \$12 billion worth of auto parts from Japan in 2010, from spark plugs to engines, according to the Original Equipment Suppliers Association.

Dave Andrea, the trade group's senior vice president of industry analysis and economics, said some parts had been in short supply prior to the earthquake, including semiconductors, precision bearings and tires. He estimated that most automakers have a three- to four-week inventory of parts in the pipeline.

"Once those start to dry out,



In this file photo taken Feb. 2, 2011, a worker checks Yaris compact sedans, set for export to North America, at a plant of Toyota Motor Co.'s group company Central Motor Co. in Ohira in Miyagi Prefecture, northern Japan.

Associated Press

that's where you see the shortages in the assembly plants," Andrea said.

Companies can ill afford those shortages. Subaru spokesman Michael McHale said the Indiana plant had been running on overtime because of strong sales of its vehicles. The Outback wagon, which is made at the plant, is currently at a 30-day supply. A 60-day supply is considered ideal.

McHale said he didn't know when overtime will be restored at the plant, which produced 150,000 vehicles last year, or 55 percent of the Subarus sold in the U.S. The plant also makes the Tribeca wagon and Legacy sedan.

Toyota, meanwhile, said the restrictions on overtime and Saturday shifts were designed to conserve Japanese-made parts. □

Newspaper ads sag to a 25-year low in 2010

SAN FRANCISCO — Newspaper advertising in the U.S. has sunk to a 25-year low as marketing budgets followed readers to the Internet, where advertising is far cheaper than what publishers have been able to command in print.

Advertisers spent \$25.8 billion on newspapers' print and digital editions last year, according to figures released Tuesday by the Newspaper Association of America. That's the lowest amount since 1985 when total newspaper advertising stood at \$25.2 billion. After adjusting for inflation, newspaper advertising now stands at about the same level as nearly 50 years ago. In 1962, newspaper advertising totaled \$3.7 billion, which translates to about \$26 billion today.

Print advertising has fallen in each of the past five years, dramatically shrinking newspaper publishers' main source of income. Even as the economy has gradually improved since 2009, newspapers are still bringing in less revenue as advertisers embrace free or cheaper Internet alternatives that aim to deliver the messages to people most likely to be interested in the products being pitched. The shift has accelerated in recent years as more readers abandoned newspapers' print editions for the Web.

Newspapers have been mining their digital editions for more revenue. Online ads generated \$3 billion for newspapers last year, an 11 percent increase from the previous year. Meanwhile, print ads dropped 8 percent to \$22.8 billion. Before the slump began in 2006, print advertising generated about \$47 billion in annual revenue for newspapers.

To cope with the upheaval, newspapers have cut their staffs, raised their prices and, in the most extreme cases, filed for bankruptcy protection to lighten their debt loads. □

Britain's Prince William

Royal wedding music includes choirs, fanfare



By GREGORY KATZ,
Associated Press

LONDON — Royal officials Tuesday named the two choirs, orchestra and military fanfare team that will provide the music for the April 29 wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton.

William's office at St. James's Palace said the ceremony will feature the choir of Westminster Abbey, the Chapel Royal Choir, the London Chamber Orchestra and a fanfare team from the Royal Air Force band.

The palace said that William

and his fiancée "have taken a great deal of interest and care in choosing the music for their service," which will include well-known hymns and choral works as well as pieces commissioned especially for the occasion.

The couple and William's father, Prince Charles, recently made an unannounced evening visit to Westminster Abbey to hear live musical performances as part of the preparation process.

Guests at a Buckingham Palace reception to be hosted by Queen Elizabeth II after the wedding will be soothed by the strains of Claire Jones, Prince Charles' official harpist, the palace said.

The choirs will be directed by James O'Donnell, organist and master of the choir at Westminster Abbey.

The Westminster Abbey choir consists of 20 boys and 12 professional adult singers, known as Lay Vicars. The choir sings the daily choral services in the

Abbey and often sings at major national events at the Abbey.

Officials said Robert Quinney will play the organ.

The Chapel Royal Choir dates back at least to the era of the Norman Conquest, officials said. Its primary roles are to sing the weekly service in the Chapel Royal at St. James' Palace and to perform for the royal family on special occasions.

The schedule calls for the London Chamber Orchestra to be conducted by Christopher Warren-Green, its music director.

It will consist of 39 musicians placed in the organ loft of the Abbey.

The orchestra was founded in 1921 by Anthony Bernard.

No announcement has been made yet about the live entertainment at an evening reception at the palace to be hosted by Prince Charles for close friends of William and his bride. □



John Paul White

Internet buzz helps The Civil Wars find success

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Here's a question the members of the duo The Civil Wars have been contemplating a lot lately: What's the value of a star's tweet? Or two? Or three?

For Joy Williams and John Paul White, tweets by Taylor Swift, Hillary Scott of Lady Antebellum and Sara Bareilles, among many others, helped drive first-week sales of their debut album, "Barton Hollow," to levels they didn't expect. They sold out one tour and now have a more ambitious schedule down the road, had their video added by CMT, and now have at their fingertips limitless possibilities that good old-fashioned word of mouth brings in the Internet age.

"Instantly, with one click, five million people knew our names," White said of Swift's tweet. Swift threw her support behind the duo when she told fans she was listening to "Poison & Wine". □

De Niro and Penn back Palestinian film at UN



Robert DeNiro

UNITED NATIONS — Sean Penn and Robert De Niro joined stars who appeared at the UN headquarters for the US premiere of a contested movie on the Middle East conflict that Israel tried to get cancelled.

Penn, De Niro, Josh Brolin and Steve Buscemi on Monday turned out to support award-winning American-Jewish director Julian Schnabel at the premiere of "Miral," the story of two Palestinian women after the creation of Israel in 1948.

The Israeli mission to the UN had said that showing the movie in the UN General Assembly hall was "clearly a politicized decision" that "shows poor judgment and a lack of even-handedness."

But UN General Assembly president Joseph Deiss of Switzerland turned down the Israeli request to cancel the event. □

"Mars Needs Moms" a historic disaster for Disney

By Pamela McClintock
Associated Press

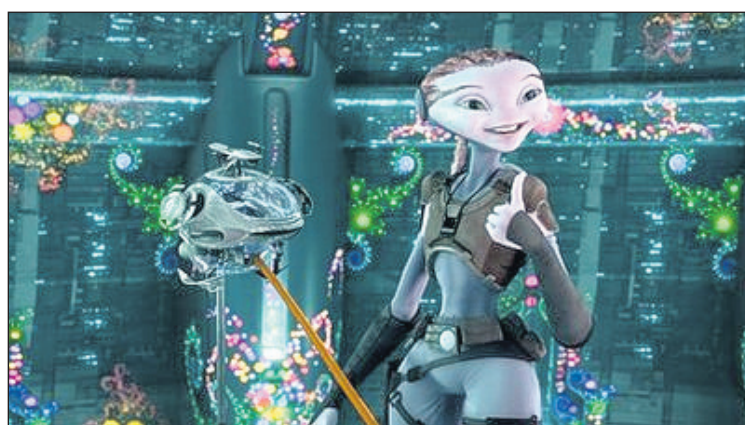
LOS ANGELES — In the weeks leading up to the release of "Mars Needs Moms" last Friday, Disney knew interest in the film was tepid at best. But no one was prepared for such a disastrous box office wipeout.

From a financial standpoint, "Mars" could be one of the biggest write-offs in modern Hollywood history.

The motion-capture animated film cost \$150 million to produce but earned only \$6.9 million in its debut at the domestic box office, the 12th worst opening of all time for a movie released in more than 3,000 theaters and one of the lowest openings for a major 3D release.

The price tag doesn't include a hefty marketing bill. All told, Disney has likely invested \$200 million or more in the picture, made by Robert Zemeckis' now-shuttered ImageMovers Digital.

"The right audience came, but not in the numbers we needed," Disney president of



Character Ki

worldwide distribution Chuck Viane said. "I'm disappointed for the filmmakers. They spent at least two years of their lives making a terrific movie that people won't see."

The chances of recovery are slim. Many times, a movie performing poorly in the U.S. can make up ground at the international box office. "Mars," however, did just as badly in its overseas debut, grossing a paltry \$2.1 million from 14 countries. Domestically, it wouldn't be a surprise if Mars topped out at \$25 million. Summit Entertainment's "Astro Boy," opening to \$6.7 million in 2009, finished up with \$19.6 million, while Fox's

"Aliens in the Attic" opened to \$8 million, also in 2009, and ended up with \$25.2 million. "How do you throw a party and no one comes? This is outright rejection," one veteran studio distribution chief said. "Mars" faced several obstacles, according to box office observers. For one, moviegoers don't seem to like the motion-capture technology. Other times, it can work, such as in "Avatar."

"The movie looked downright creepy," one observer notes. The title also was problematic, specifically, the use of the word "mom," which might have been a turn-off for boys. □

Feds raid Montana medical marijuana facilities



Marijuana

By Emilie Ritter
Associated Press

HELENA, Montana – Federal agents raided state-sanctioned medical marijuana greenhouses and dispensaries in several Montana cities on Monday, prompting an outcry from legalized pot suppliers. The raids marked the first such crackdown in Montana by the federal government since a state ballot measure legalizing cultivation and possession of marijuana for medical purposes was overwhelmingly approved by voters there in 2004. The busts also appeared to mark a reversal of the policy the Obama administration announced in 2009 when the Justice Department issued guidelines calling a halt to federal raids on state-approved medical marijuana dispensaries. Marijuana is still considered an illegal narcotic under federal law. The supply chain of pot-growing facilities and storefront dispensaries allowed under Montana's medical marijuana

statute is little regulated and has expanded rapidly during the past couple of years. Meanwhile, the number of medical marijuana patients, or card-holders, has jumped from about 1,000 to 28,000 in that state. Victoria Francis, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Billings, confirmed that federal agents served search warrants across Montana, but she declined to give further details until the warrants were "unsealed." A medical marijuana advocacy group, Americans for Safe Access, said nearly a dozen dispensaries and cultivation operations were raided by federal agents on Monday in such towns as Billings, Bozeman, Missoula, Great Falls and Helena. There were no arrests reported in connection with the sweep. A copy of a search warrant obtained by the group from one of the cultivation operations raided said agents were out to confiscate marijuana, drug paraphernalia, computers,

firearms, cell phones, cash and vehicle titles. Chris Williams, co-owner of Montana Cannabis west of Helena, one of the biggest medical marijuana operations in the state, said his entire crop of nearly 1,700 pot plants were seized from a greenhouse facility about half the length of a football field. "This is ridiculous," said Williams, whose operation serves nearly 300 patients. "I don't participate in interstate commerce. I only do business in Montana, and our state has made this legal for our citizens." Williams said agents from the FBI, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the Drug Enforcement Administration, seized all of Montana Cannabis' computers, paperwork, plants and medicine, with assistance from local law enforcement. "Basically, they've completely uprooted our business as best they can, without any reason other than they say, federally, marijuana is illegal" Williams said. The Obama administration has delivered somewhat mixed messages about the liberalization of medical marijuana laws at the state level. In a departure from the stance taken by the Bush administration, the Justice Department said in October 2009 it would no longer prosecute patients who use medical marijuana, or dispensaries that distribute it, in states where marijuana has been legalized for such purposes. □



Fukushima Daiichi

Fears of health risks rise amid Japan crisis

By M. MARCHIONE
Associated Press

Fears about health risks rose dramatically in Japan Tuesday with news of a greater radiation release and renewed warnings to remaining residents within 20 miles to stay indoors. Japanese officials said that more radiation was released at a nuclear plant disastrously damaged by last week's tsunami. Prime Minister Naoto Kan said radiation had spread from four reactors. "The level seems very high, and there is still a very high risk of more radiation coming out," he said. Thyroid cancer is the most immediate risk, and the Japanese government made plans to distribute potassium iodide pills to prevent it. Worse case scenarios lots of radioactive fallout can lead to other cancers years later. Even a meltdown would not necessarily mean medical doom, experts said. It depends

on the amount and type of radioactive materials. Donald Olander, professor emeritus of nuclear engineering at the University of California at Berkeley, said even the much higher levels of radiation are "not a health hazard." The world has seen two big nuclear reactor scares in 1986 at the Chernobyl plant in the Ukraine, and in 1979 at the Three Mile Island plant in Pennsylvania. At Three Mile Island, even though a quarter of the reactor core melted, the steel containment structure held. The radiation released was so minuscule that it did not threaten health - the equivalent of a chest X-ray to local folks. At Chernobyl, where there was no containment vessel, far more radioactive material was released, and of a more dangerous type than at Three Mile Island. □

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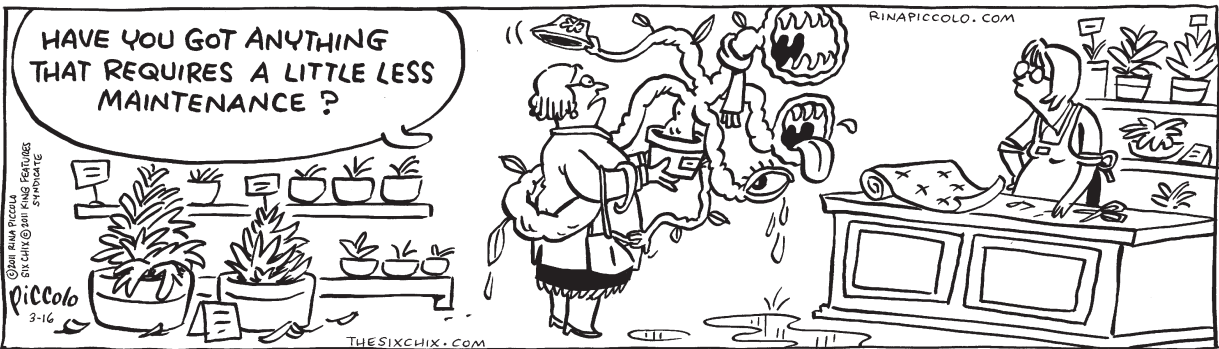
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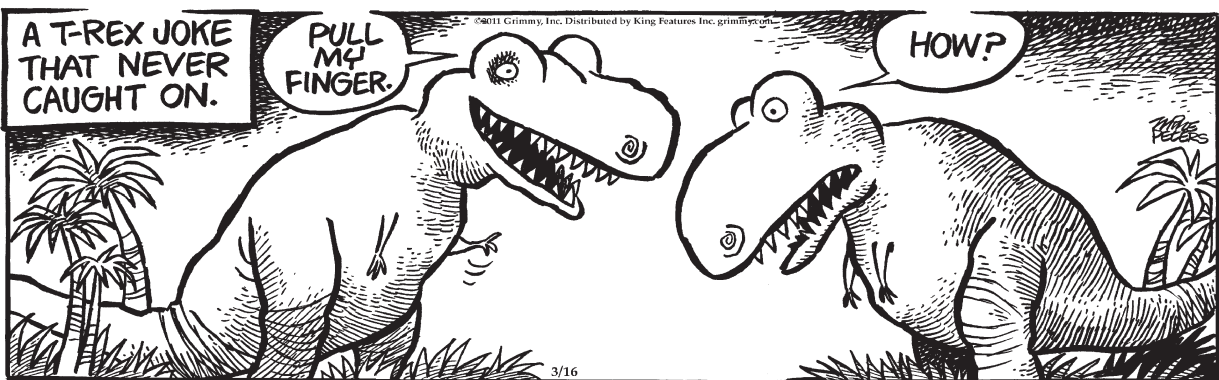
6 Chix



Blondie



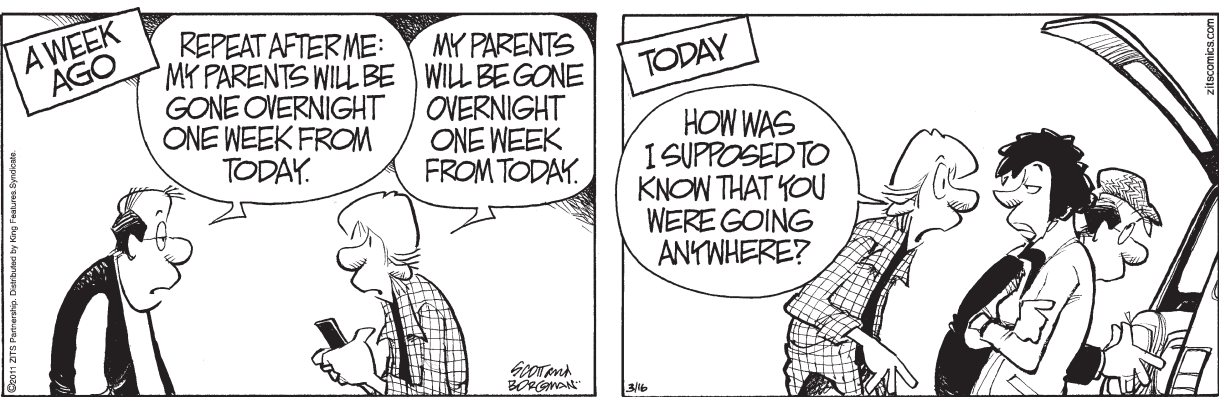
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	3	5				9	1	
7			6		8			4
			9					8
			5					2
			4					7
		6					8	
	9					5		
4					7			
3	8	7	1		6	2	4	9

Difficulty Level ★★

3/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

1	9	3	6	5	7	8	4	2
7	5	4	2	1	8	6	9	3
8	6	2	3	4	9	5	7	1
6	1	8	9	7	2	4	3	5
5	3	9	1	8	4	7	2	6
2	4	7	5	6	3	1	8	9
4	2	5	8	3	1	9	6	7
3	8	6	7	9	5	2	1	4
9	7	1	4	2	6	3	5	8

ACROSS

- 1 Extended family group
- 5 Ocean-surrounded bits of land
- 10 Voter survey
- 14 Nurse's helper
- 15 Purple shade
- 16 Mishmash
- 17 Shoelace problem
- 18 Tropical fruits
- 20 Sushi bar dish
- 21 Snake's tooth
- 22 Tilt downward
- 23 Construct
- 25 Sheep's cry
- 26 Not present
- 28 Big, whiskered marine animal
- 31 Ran quickly
- 32 Baggage ; airport area
- 34 Holiday drink
- 36 Treble ; musical symbol
- 37 London ; cut of beef
- 38 Not working
- 39 Egg producer
- 40 Emotionally distant
- 41 Inexperienced
- 42 Radio interference
- 44 Like the voice of one with laryngitis
- 45 Floor cleaner
- 46 Garbanzos
- 47 Once more
- 50 Actor Garrett
- 51 Half a score
- 54 Numskull
- 57 Sled race
- 58 and crafts
- 59 Irritate
- 60 Commotions
- 61 Is required to
- 62 Rhythm
- 63 Usually benign growth

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
					15						16			
14														
17					18						19			
20				21							22			
			23	24						25				
26	27								28			29	30	
31						32	33					34		35
36						37						38		
39					40						41			
	42		43							44				
									45					
47	48	49						50				51	52	53
54						55	56					57		
58						59						60		
61						62						63		

3/16/11

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

WIMP	TRACE	FAST
AYER	AARON	ONTO
DATE	SPEND	ROAM
INSECTS	CEMENTS	
MAY	KUDOS	
ADAPT	MIR	LEAFY
TENT	KIT	FAERIE
LAG	REOCCUR	BAA
ALLDAY	HUN	DOTS
STEEP	BET	WORST
SIREN	FOO	
EGGEDON	HANDBAG	
TOUR	ADHOC	LAVA
CYST	SEINE	EDIT
HATS	TREED	REDS

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3/16/11

DOWN

- 1 Baked dessert
- 2 -item veto
- 3 Teenager

- 4 Tennis court divider
- 5 Have an effect on
- 6 Halo wearer
- 7 Breathing organ
- 8 Adam's wife
- 9 Body of water
- 10 Willow cousin
- 11 Pueblo Indian pot
- 12 Claim against property
- 13 Misplaced
- 19 Biblical hymn
- 21 for oneself; be independent
- 24 Chain of rocks by the water
- 25 Arrestee's hope
- 26 Instep
- 27 Hay bundles
- 28 Homeless child
- 29 Actor's fill-in
- 30 Shoe bottoms
- 32 Swamp critter, for short
- 33 British restroom

- 35 Actor Wilder
- 37 Radar screen image
- 38 Tehran's nation
- 40 Make amends
- 41 Prod
- 43 In the center of
- 44 Article's title
- 46 Valiant
- 47 Actor Sandler
- 48 Hindu teacher
- 49 Social insects
- 50 Red as a
- 52 Personalities
- 53 Treetop home
- 55 Record letters
- 56 TV's " Haw"
- 57 Fond du , WI

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Wk 8 \$12,000 1BR Pool*
Wk 9 \$8,500 1BR Garden*
Wk 9 \$12,000 1BR Pool*
Wk 10, \$6,500 1BR Garden
Wk 10, \$9,000 1BR Pool*
Wk 14, \$13,000 2BR Pool*
Wk 24 \$1,860 Studio
Wk 19, 3,15 1BR Garden
Wk 20, \$4,200 1BR Pool
Wk 31 \$1,920 1BR
(Even Yr.)
Wk 32 \$7,200 2BR Pool
Wk 38 \$6,600 2BR Pool
Wk 42 \$4,500 1BR Pool
Wk 45 \$11,000 2 BR Pool*

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Colombia y Argentina fortalecen lazos comerciales y culturales

BOGOTA (AP) - Los cancilleres de Colombia y Argentina anunciaron el lunes el inicio de un cronograma de trabajo que permitirá la integración binacional en varios frentes de trabajo.

El jefe de la diplomacia argentina Héctor Marcos Timmerman, de visita en el país, expresó que el deseo de la presidenta Cristina Fernández y su homólogo colombiano Juan Manuel Santos es el de “profundizar las relaciones históricas entre ambos países y de ponerlas a la altura de la región y del mundo”.

Timmerman resaltó que las

relaciones entre las dos naciones deben ir más allá de lo político y extenderse a lo comercial, social y cultural. “Hemos empezado a transitar un camino de integración, de profundización y de amistad entre nuestros pueblos y nuestros gobiernos”, afirmó. La última visita oficial de un canciller argentino a Colombia fue efectuada el 2 de junio del 2006, cuando el ministro Jorge Taiana se entrevistó con su homóloga Carolina Barco en una breve estadía.

El diplomático argentino elogió el nombramiento de la ex canciller colombiana María

Emma Mejía para desempeñarse como secretaria general de la Unasur durante el próximo año, a fin de completar la mitad del período que debía laborar el extinto ex presidente Néstor Kirchner por dos años más.

El funcionario afirmó que el nombramiento de Mejía “demuestra la vocación latinoamericana del gobierno del presidente Santos y reafirma la vocación argentina de que Colombia tenga un rol en el mundo que esté acorde con su tradición y su historia”.

Por su parte, la canciller María Angela Holguín precisó que

durante la reunión convino con su par argentino realizar un foro empresarial que reúna a representantes comerciales de ambos países y se forme una comisión que monitoree el comercio binacional. También dialogaron sobre una posible reunión entre Santos y Fernández de Kirchner,

según invitación extendida por el canciller Timmerman. Colombia exporta a Argentina combustibles, plásticos, productos editoriales, algunas sustancias químicas y vidrios, e importa del mismo país cereales, oleaginosas, granos, manufacturas de hierro y acero, entre otros bienes. □

Ecuador prevé inversiones por 1.950 millones en crudo

QUITO (AP) - El gobierno ecuatoriano tiene previsto invertir este año 1.500 millones de dólares para la exploración y explotación de crudo y espera que las empresas privadas realicen inversiones por otros 450 millones de dólares, informó el martes la agencia estatal de noticias Andes.

Citando al ministro de Recursos Naturales No Renovables, Wilson Pástor, señaló que esos fondos se destinarán no sólo a la exploración y producción petrolera sino también a la rehabilitación de la Refinería de Esmeraldas, la más grande del país, y a adelantar la construcción de la Refinería del Pacífico. La agencia no dio mayores detalles.

Acerca de la inversión privada, señaló que la española Repsol, la italiana Agip, las chinas Andes Petroleum y Petroriental y la Empresa

Nacional de Petróleo de Chile (ENAP) han propuesto un programa para aumentar en 25% la producción actual de 145.000 barriles de crudo diarios. Petroecuador produce 363.000 barriles.

Pástor dijo que para 2013 el país superará su récord de producción diaria porque llegará a unos 600.000 barriles diarios.

Anticipó que este año Ecuador convocará dos licitaciones, la primera en junio cuando ofertará ocho campos pequeños con un potencial total de 30.000 barriles, y la segunda en octubre cuando ofertará una docena de bloques cerca de la frontera con Perú “donde se estima que existen grandes reservas de petróleo”.

Añadió que existen empresas interesadas en invertir en Ecuador procedentes de la India, China e Indonesia, entre otros países. □

Reina Sofía visita escuela en Bogotá

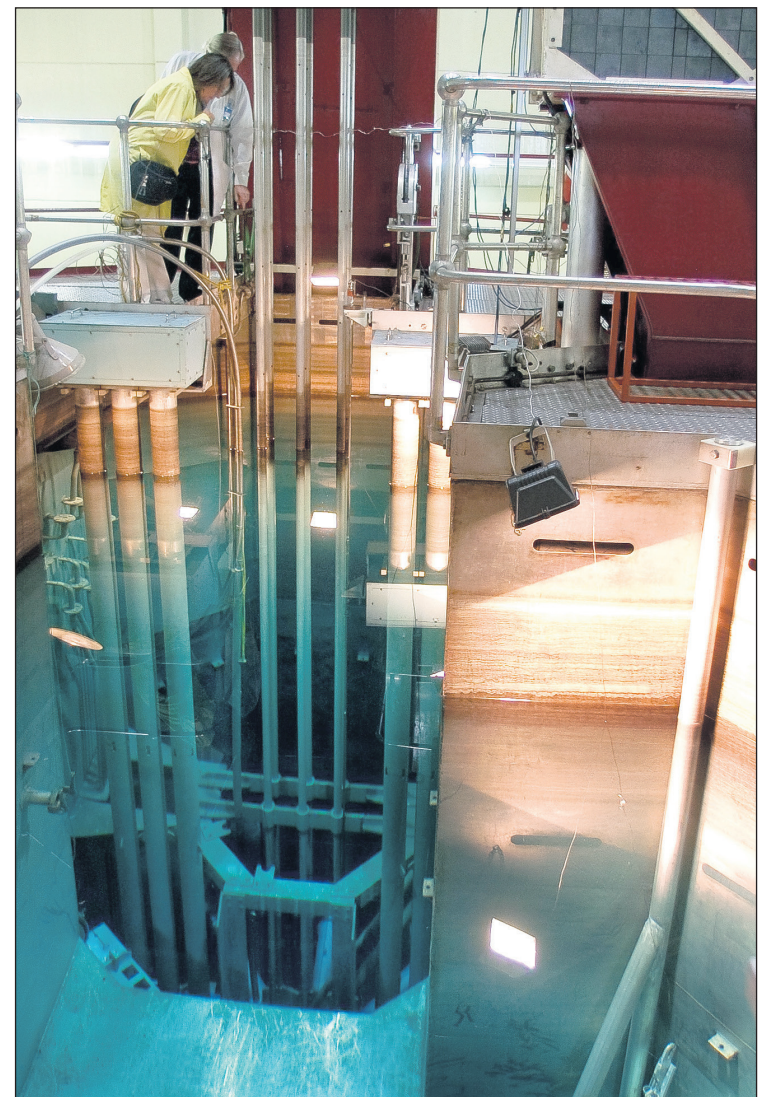
BOGOTA (AP) - La Reina Sofía de España visitó el martes una escuela taller cuyos inicios fueron patrocinados por España y afirmó sentirse en Colombia como en casa. “Decirles que cada vez que venimos a Colombia... esta es mi casa y así lo siento”, dijo la reina en una breve declaración ante reporteros en la casa de gobierno donde poco antes había participado en un almuerzo oficial con el presidente Juan Manuel Santos.

La reina, quien llegó a Bogotá el lunes por la tarde para una visita de dos días, estuvo temprano en la sede de la Escuela Taller de Bogotá, que surgió en el 2005 bajo el modelo de las escuelas talleres surgidas en los 80 en España, y que enseñan a jóvenes entre 18 y 25 años que se encuentran en alto riesgo social trabajos como carpintería, construcción y gastronomía, entre otros.

“La reina de España nos ha

acostumbrado a que sus visitas siempre tienen un componente de solidaridad y apoyo social y esta vez no ha sido la excepción, en esta oportunidad viene a supervisar el avance del programa de escuela taller”, dijo a su turno el presidente colombiano. La reina Sofía tiene previsto viajar al final de la jornada a Cartagena, en la costa del Caribe colombiano, para visitar el miércoles varios proyectos sociales y ambientales en aquella ciudad. □

EEUU debate acuerdo nuclear con Chile



Una persona observa al fondo del reactor nuclear RECH-1, localizado al fondo de una piscina con agua, en el Centro de Estudio Nuclear en Santiago, Chile. El presidente chileno, Sebastian Piñera esta planeando firmar un acuerdo de energía nuclear con los Estados Unidos, durante la visita que realizará el presidente Barack Obama a Santiago a finales de este mes. Esta foto fue tomada el 18 de febrero, 2011. (AP Photo/Carlos Espinoza).

WASHINGTON (AP) - Estados Unidos evalúa aún incluir un convenio de cooperación nuclear con Chile durante la visita del presidente Barack Obama, dijo el martes un funcionario de la Casa Blanca.

El asesor presidencial en temas económicos internacionales para la seguridad nacional Mike Froman dijo a periodistas que la “discusión sobre energía nuclear civil en este momento queda por definir”, al responder a una pregunta sobre si está garantizado un acuerdo de cooperación nuclear con Chile.

“En cuanto al acuerdo específico con Chile, creo que aún lo estamos discutiendo con ellos”, agregó.

Antes de la crisis nuclear ocurrida en Japón tras el terremoto y el tsunami de viernes, versiones de prensa daban como un hecho la firma de un acuerdo de cooperación nuclear durante la vista de Obama a Santiago. □



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